

The Muncie Times

VOL. 16, No.5

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MARCH 1, 2007

Jennifer Hudson wins the Oscar



**Golden Globe, SAG and Academy
Award winning actress
Jennifer Hudson**

Former American Idol third season seventh-place finisher Jennifer Hudson came up a winner at Sunday night's 79th Academy Awards ceremony, winning the best supporting actress Oscar award for her Dreamgirls performance.

"Oh my God... I just have to take this moment in, I can not believe this -- look what God can do," Hudson said as she tearfully accepted the award for her portrayal of powerhouse singer Effie White in director Bill Condon's critically-acclaimed film adaptation of Broadway's Dreamgirls musical. "If my grandmother... I didn't think I was gonna win, but wow, [if] my grandmother was here to see me now."

"She was my biggest inspiration for everything because she was a singer and she had the passion for it but she never had the chance, and that was the thing that pushed me forward to continue but

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Forest Whitaker wins Oscar for Idi Amin role



Academy Award winner Forest Whitaker

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LL Cool J to host 38th NAACP Image Awards



Superstar LL Cool J will host this year's NAACP Image Awards activities.

BALTIMORE, Md.-- Multi-platinum mega-star LL Cool J will host

the 38th NAACP Image Awards, which will air live beginning at 8 p.m. on March 2 (8 p.m. ET/PT) on FOX, Vicangelo Bulluck, executive producer of the telecast, has said.

"We are pleased and honored to have LL Cool J host our first live telecast," said Bulluck. "His humor, intelligence and incredible

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Grandma Betty's moving to Village

By Staff Writer

Before opening her own business in downtown Muncie last year, Jeannine Lee Lake was a newspaper reporter covering everything from criminal justice to county government.

Occasionally, she would write stories about people who opened their own businesses, and would wonder if she too would one day become an entrepreneur herself. In June 2005, she did just that, opening Grandma Betty's Ice Cream Shop, a



Jeannine Lee Lake owner of Grandma Betty's

charming downtown diner that featured a variety of ice cream treats such as shakes, malts, and sundaes as well as home-

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EDITORIAL

Academic success is not synonymous with acting white

The other day, CNN's Paula Zahn had a program about black children. the program showed that some black kids "dumb down" because they are afraid of being accused of acting white. The premise of the argument is that some black kids are afraid of doing well in school because they labor under the misapprehension that only white kids are supposed to excel scholastically.

They grow up afraid to live up to their potential because they fear to be ostracized and isolated when they get good grades in school. so

they focus more on being accepted by their peers, rather than being all they can be. That is a sad state of affairs.

It means we now have kids who measure their status not in how well they can succeed, but in how successful they are at hiding their potential so they can remain popular with their peers. That is a pathetic state of affairs. It means those of our kids who have the potential to be leaders in law, medicine, business, academia and other fields take pride in doing the least that they can to get by. Instead of aiming for grades such as

A's and B's, they settle for C's and D's and even F's. Their potential is stunted.

Their ability to enter the best schools in the country is impeded. Instead of trying to show how smart they are, they settle for mediocrity. They refuse to stand out. They do not want to be in honor's classes, to be valedictorians. They do not want to graduate with honors. They do not want their classmates, schoolmates, friends and acquaintances know that they are good students.

They would rather sacrifice their futures for immediate acceptance

now. It is time to reverse that attitude. It is baloney. It is nonsense to buy into the myth that succeeding academically means one is "acting white." Where is the research that shows that black kids are supposed to be dumb? There is no such research. There is nothing that says African Americans are naturally dumb or incapable of succeeding academically. It's time our kids stop buying into that nonsense.

A few African Americans will succeed in life because of their prowess in basketball, baseball, boxing, football, as musicians, models, actors and actresses. More power to them. Unfortunately opportunities in those fields are very limited. That means most of them are going to have to survive because of their brains or brawn or both. They will have to work hard to succeed in life.

For many of them, the only path to upward social mobility will come from academic success. A college degree (or two or three) will at least ensure that they will be able to compete for good paying jobs. Without such an education, their futures will be bleak and brutish. The choice is simple, except for those who may choose to pursue extralegal or antisocial paths.

So, the challenge for African American students is to boldly and

loudly reject the myth that academic success means acting white. As parents and as a community, we should work with our children and encourage them to pursue academic excellence as a path to a greater and better future. We should let our children know, from the beginning, that we want them to be the best they can be. We should be encouraging them, looking over their homework, reading with them, instilling in them the importance of a good education and doing well in the classroom.

It is important to reward them and offer them incentives when they do well and also offer disincentives when they do not measure up to our standards. We need to instill in them the view that academic success has nothing to do with acting white. We should want them to disdain academic failure for themselves and also in remembrance of those who fought and died so they could have a shot at attending and graduating from the best schools in the community. That should be our goal and our collective ambition for our young people. They need to know that they can do, they can succeed, they can be good students--without fear of being stuck with the label that they are trying to act white.

LETTER POLICY

The Muncie Times accepts and publishes "Letters to the Editor" under the following conditions:

- The letter must indicate the writer's name, address and phone number where the writer can be reached during the day. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published.
- If the writer wishes the letter to be published under a pseudo-

nym, that wish will be honored. However, the writer's full particulars must be included in the letter along with the suggested pseudonym.

- Letters must be brief, preferably no more than 300 words long and should, if possible, be typed and double-spaced. Hand-written letters will also be accepted.
- The editor reserves the right to

edit all letters for brevity, accuracy, taste, grammar and libel.

- All correspondence should be addressed to: The Editor, The Muncie Times, 1304 N. Broadway, Muncie, IN 47303.
- Unsolicited manuscripts will only be returned if the writer includes a self-addressed, stamped envelope with correct package.

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*The Muncie Times is published twice monthly at 1304 N. Broadway, Muncie, IN 47303.
It covers the communities of Anderson, Marion, New Castle, Richmond, and Muncie.
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FOREST from page 1

Forest Whitaker won the Academy Award for best actor on Sunday for a critically hailed performance as Ugandan ruler Idi Amin in "The Last King of Scotland," beating out 74-year-old screen legend Peter O'Toole.

Whitaker, the hulking, Texas-born character actor who gained 50 pounds to play Amin and dazzled critics with his portrayal of the mercurial, brutal dictator, won the Oscar on his first-ever nomination.

The 45-year-old actor's menacing performance earned him the award over sentimental favorite O'Toole, the British veteran of stage and screen who has never won despite eight nominations.

The clearly emotional Whitaker took several long breaths, his Oscar statue in hand, before pronouncing himself "overwhelmed" by the award and pulling out a prepared speech.

"When I was a kid the only way I saw movies was from the backseat of my family's car at the drive-in," Whitaker said. "It wasn't my reality to think I would be acting in movies, so receiving this honor tonight tells me it is possible," he said. "It is possible for a kid from East Texas, raised in South Central L.A. and Carson who believes in his dreams, commits himself to them with his heart, to touch them and to have them happen."

The actor, who had won a Golden Globe for the performance, said he had



Keisha Whitaker with husband Forest Whitaker

felt good going into the Academy Awards.

"I wasn't sure what was going to happen tonight but I thought something magical was going to happen," Whitaker said backstage after receiving the award. "Because I could feel the breath on my neck and the tingling on my body. For me it is like my ancestors speaking to me and they are saying to me, 'We are with you.'"

O'Toole, who was first nominated for a best actor Oscar in 1963 for "Lawrence of Arabia," was in the running this year for playing an aging actor who falls for a young woman in "Venus."

Also nominated were Leonardo DiCaprio for "Blood Diamond," Ryan Gosling as an inner-city school teacher with a drug habit in "Half Nelson,"

and Will Smith as a struggling salesman who ends up homeless with his son in "The Pursuit of Happyness."

Whitaker has said Amin was one of his toughest roles, which he prepared for by interviewing Amin's siblings, former members of his government and even victims of his regime. Amin died in 2003. He also darkened his skin tone for the part and learned to speak a Swahili dialect.

"I tried to understand what happened to him as a kid. You start covering them up with the dark things, of course, but you start out with this little child. Slowly, slowly it gets covered up by all the monstrous things," he said on Sunday.

Whitaker made his film debut as a high school

football player in the 1982 teen comedy "Fast Times at Ridgemont High" and gained notice four years later as a pool shark in "The Color of Money."

He has made a career of playing gentle giant roles, including a G.I. named Big Harold in Oliver Stone's "Platoon" and a kidnapped British soldier in Neil Jordan's "The Crying Game."

Forrest Whitaker Bio

Forest Whitaker got into college on a football scholarship, but upon transferring to the University of Southern California, he majored in music – winning two more scholarships in that field. Still another scholarship, this one set up by Sir John Gielgud, came Whitaker's way when he entered the drama program at Berkeley. A seasoned stage veteran at 21, the baby-faced Whitaker appeared in his first film, "Fast Times at Ridgemont High," in 1982, coincidentally making his debut in the role of a football player.

Four years later, Whitaker attracted critical attention in the role of the hulking young pool player who flummoxes Fast Eddie Felson (Paul Newman) in "The Color of Money" (1986). He was subsequently selected by director Clint Eastwood for the prize role of jazz great Charlie "Bird" Parker in "Bird" (1988), which won him the Best Actor award at Cannes. In 1992, Whitaker gained true fame for his role as a

captured British soldier whose prior relationship with the mysterious Dil (Jaye Davidson) catalyzes the plot of "The Crying Game." The role proved to be Whitaker's true breakthrough, and he went on to work steadily throughout the rest of the decade in films of almost every possible genre. For Robert Altman's

galumphing fashion epic "Pret-A-Porter" (1994), the actor portrayed a fashion designer who has a tryst with fellow designer Richard E. Grant; the sci-fi thriller "Species" (1995) featured him as an empath on the trail of an alien, while in "Smoke" (1995), Wayne Wang's fine adaptation of several Paul Auster stories, Whitaker portrayed an errant father confronted by his long-unseen son. He ended the century by portraying the title character in Jim Jarmusch's "Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai" (1999), and began the 21st century by starring, appropriately enough, in the futuristic action film "Battleship Earth" (2000).

In addition to his work in front of the camera, Whitaker has also stepped behind it. In 1995, he made his feature directorial debut with "Waiting to Exhale," the popular adaptation of Terry McMillan's novel of the same name. Three years later, he was at the helm of "Hope Floats," another melodrama starring Sandra Bullock as a woman who moves back to her Texas hometown after discovering her husband's infidelity.

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made cakes, brownies and pies. Named after her mother, the late Betty Jean Lee, Grandma Betty's was well-received by downtown patrons, with many children and youth coming in with parents and grandparents to grab something for their sweet teeth.

The shop also featured a light lunch menu, with hamburgers, hot dogs, deli sandwiches and salads made fresh to order. Lake – who ran the shop with her two sons, Charles and Layton – was pleased with her first two years, saying that her ultimate business partner – God – was the reason she was able to stay afloat while other downtown businesses – including the Walnut at the Crossing – closed within a few months of opening. Currently on target to move into The Village near the Ball State University campus, Grandma Betty's will feature extended catering opportunities, a full kitchen and portable ice cream dipping cabinets for outside events.

"We're thrilled to be moving to the Ball State University area and are looking forward to serving this new student clientele," said Lake. "Downtown Muncie had been steadily growing in the months before we arrived, but in the 18 months that we were there, it began losing key elements, from the Roberts Hotel to restaurants like Mezzaluna and the Judge's Chamber.

"We wanted to try and wait until some of the soon-coming construction

happened in hopes that we would see an upturn, but some of those things are still way down the road," she said, referring to a planned roundabout near Walnut and Mulberry Streets. "Our downtown customers were truly a pleasure to serve, but in terms of a business move, we had to make the change in a timely manner that would benefit us in the long run.

"We're hoping that our customers follow us to The Village area, and that new customers come as well."

One of the people who Lake said helped her in countless ways was fellow entrepreneur Carl Kizer, who has owned Kizer's Carpet Care for over two decades. A community activist involved in Big Brothers Big Sisters and other youth programs, Kizer would often come into Grandma Betty's and dispense some much-needed advice while downing his favorite: a plain chocolate shake, no whipped cream.

Kizer told Lake three major points that she tried to embody as an African-American businesswoman in Muncie – advice that she's treasured and held tightly to in good times and in bad.

"The first thing he told me was to work hard myself, and to be the example to everyone else when it came to being on time, giving 100 percent and being nice to customers," she said. "The second thing he told me was that most customers won't care what color you are as long as you give them good service and a good product. Finally, he told

me to help others whenever you can, because God will bless you while you're trying to help someone else. He was so right."

Another person who influenced Lake was Bea Moten-Foster, publisher of The Muncie Times. Besides helping Lake through a plethora of word-of-mouth advertising and countless referrals, Foster emphasized the importance of being professional at all times, whether tired or stressed. She also said hiring good people in front and behind the counter was also important, saying that a team of dedicated, trustworthy employees is vital to a small business.

To that end, Lake has tried her best to hire people who identified themselves as Christians, seeking to blend her values and vision with those who work for her.

"One of the things that Mrs. Foster taught me was that your employees really need to value your business, too, and that they need to be people you can trust with your reputation," she said. "God really blessed us in that way and brought people into my path that really cared about my goals, and wanted to make Grandma Betty's look as professional as possible."

Those on the Grandma Betty team were Ashley and Nikki Musick, Cameron Allen, Terrence (TJ) Trotter, Charmain Berry, Elizabeth Johnson, and Prince Thomas. Trotter and Berry – mother and son from Gary, Indiana – helped implement Grandma Betty's "Soul Food Sundae"

menu, which featured a variety of items such as fried chicken, greens, macaroni and cheese, sweet potatoes, peach cobbler, and gumbo shrimp and fried rice. The seasonal "Soul Food Sunday" offerings eventually led to various holiday parties at the diner, and also to catering jobs with groups such as Motivate Our Minds, Muncie Indiana Transit System (MITS), Muncie Black Expo, various committees from the Altrusa literacy group, and a 400-person dinner for The Magic City Music Men.

Lake said Downtown Development provided support as well, with helpful ideas from Ken Hughes, Cheryl Crowder and other downtown merchants like Tom Steiner and "everyone down at White River Landing." The Muncie-Delaware Chamber of Commerce administrator Bruce Baldwin was also helpful, Lake said, approving a loan to purchase a refrigerator, stove and other restaurant equipment.

"So many people have helped us along the way, which is why we have been able to stay in business thus far," Lake said. "One of the things I learned myself was that many of my employees also want to go into business themselves. I started out helping a friend build his business, and I feel that God blessed me because of that."

One of the ways that Lake is trying to help other potential entrepreneurs is through the East Central Indiana Minority Business Council, which meets routinely to discuss the issues

that minorities often face when starting a business. Trotter, who eventually wants to own his own barbecue joint, is among those who have attended ECIMBC meetings.

Having taken business courses at Purdue University, he's used his experience at Grandma Betty's to pursue his own dreams of expanding Fadie's Barbeque, the name he's picked out for his own upcoming catering business. He's spent the last month helping move ice cream freezers, shelving and other equipment out of the old shop, and is also eagerly anticipating the re-opening.

While Lake is busy planning the move of Grandma Betty's, she's been taking courses at Ball State in an attempt to enter the Miller College of Business and earn a master's in business administration. She is excited about the grand re-opening of her business, but is also taking time to relax while paint is being ordered, menus are being redone, and equipment being serviced and moved.

"I'm very positive about the future and I'm looking forward to this new chapter in my life," Lake said. "God has opened so many doors that have often seemed shut, that I am just trying to accept what He has for me and begin to trust Him even more. There's a song that says 'What God Has for Me, It is For Me,' and I believe that message so much.

"When God does something big like he has this year for me, it can only be Him and no one else," she added. "To God be the glory."

Verizon wireless customers in Muncie get faster new wireless broadband network

MUNCIE, Ind.—Verizon Wireless customers in Muncie can now have access to the Internet and to their email and corporate data at faster speeds, uploading files five to six times faster than before as Verizon Wireless rolls out

its next-generation high-speed broadband network. Based on CDMA 1x Evolution-Data Optimized (EV-DO) Revision A (Rev. A) technology, the enhanced wireless broadband network provides Verizon Wireless cus-

tomers in Muncie with data uplink speeds significantly faster than the company's award-winning national EV-DO network, which the company rolled out in Muncie in December 2006

The EV-DO Rev. A net-

work coverage area extends approximately 300 square miles and includes Ball State University, providing Verizon Wireless customers with faster access for sending and uploading data. Rev. A is also available in Anderson, Lafayette, greater Indianapolis and greater Fort Wayne.

The company's existing EV-DO network enables customers to access BroadbandAccess on their laptops, email on their PDAs, and V CAST videos and music over their wireless phones. The company's national wireless broadband network, the first in the nation, is already available to more than 200 million Americans in 242 major metropolitan areas and 180 major airports from coast to coast.

"Our existing wireless broadband network has enabled customers to work remotely and stay entertained in unprecedented ways; now we're taking wireless to the next level by introducing technology that helps them work faster," said Greg Haller, president-Indiana/Kentucky/Michigan Region, Verizon Wireless. "Our customers who enjoy the latest technology will applaud Rev. A's faster data uplink speeds for their cutting-edge devices."

The company's flagship business data service, BroadbandAccess, will run faster and more efficiently with the new network enhancements. Customers in enhanced coverage areas can take advantage of upload speeds that are five to six times faster than that of the company's existing wireless broadband network, while interacting with Web-based applications with improved latency for a better customer experience. For example, BroadbandAccess customers in enhanced broad-

band wireless coverage areas can expect average download speeds of 450-800 kilobits per second (kbps) and average upload speeds of 300-400 kbps, which means customers can download a 1 megabyte email attachment the equivalent of a small PowerPoint® presentation or a large PDF file—in less than 15 seconds and upload the same-sized file in less than 25 seconds. The enhanced coverage areas allow Verizon Wireless customers to download files approximately six times faster than customers of wireless service providers who use non-EV-DO technology.

The first two devices from Verizon Wireless that take advantage of faster speeds provided by these new network enhancements are the new compact USB720 wireless modem and the AirCard 595 PC Card from Verizon Wireless, which are fully compatible and backward compatible with the company's enhanced and existing wireless broadband networks and the company's National Access network (based on CDMA 1xRTT technology). Muncie customers purchasing either device can get significantly faster upload speeds and improved download speeds when in an enhanced network coverage area. Muncie customers interested in purchasing either device can contact their local business sales representative at 260-449-1838. The devices are also available online at www.verizonwireless.com.

For more information about Verizon Wireless products and services, visit a Verizon Wireless Communications Store, call 1-800-2 JOIN IN or go to www.verizonwireless.com.

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Indiana cracks down on drivers failing to properly restrain kids

Indianapolis, Ind.-- According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), approximately 7,500 lives have been saved by the proper use of child passenger safety restraints during the past 20 years.

"Yet, motor vehicle crashes still remain the top killer of children ages 4 to 14 in America." Too often child safety seats are improperly used or not used at all.

That is why the Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving and the Traffic Safety division of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) have announced that a 2-week statewide enforcement crackdown will continue through Feb. 17. This enforcement crackdown will commemorate Indiana's child passenger safety law.

The primary goal of this public awareness campaign is to remind all parents and other adults responsible for children traveling in motor vehicles that if children are 4-foot 9 and under, they are required to be in a booster seat.

"In 2005, an average of five children under the age of 15 were killed nationwide in motor vehicle crashes every single day," said Mike Cunegin, executive director of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

"For this reason, ICJI, along with our state and local law enforcement partners will continue to work hard throughout the

year to educate parents and caregivers about the importance of properly restraining their children."

Another goal of this public awareness campaign is to remind all parents and other adults that all children ages eight to 16 riding in a motor vehicle must be in a child restraint or use a seat belt, including those who ride in pickup trucks and vehicles plated as pickup trucks.

According to NHTSA, belt positioning booster seats reduce the risk of injury in a motor vehicle crash by nearly 60 percent. The Automotive Safety Program at Riley Hospital finds that one in three Indiana children are not properly restrained in their booster seats.

"As children grow, the ways in which they need to be secured in a car, truck, van or SUV change," said ICJI Traffic Safety division Director, Ryan Klitzsch. "The goal of this campaign is to enforce Indiana's safety belt laws and make sure motorists are restraining children the correct way."

Additionally, it is always important for expectant mothers to wear their safety belts in order to protect themselves and their unborn child(ren). Expectant mothers should position passenger vehicle lap belts across their hips and below their bellies. Shoulder belts should lie diagonally across the chest.

For maximum child passenger safety, parents and caregivers simply

need to remember and follow the 4 Steps for Kids:

*For the best possible protection keep infants in the back seat, in rear-facing child safety seats, as long as possible up to the height or weight limit of the particular seat. At a minimum, keep infants rear-facing until age 1 and at least 20 pounds;

* When children outgrow their rear-facing seats they should ride in forward-facing child safety seats, in the back seat of a vehicle, until they reach the upper weight or height limit of the particular seat (usually around age 4 and

40 pounds);

* Once children outgrow their forward-facing seats, they should ride in booster seats, in the back seat of the vehicle, until the seat belts fit properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest (usually at age 8 or when they are 4-foot 9);

* When children outgrow their booster seats, they can use the adult seat belt in the back seat of the vehicle, providing it fits properly.

For more information about child passenger

safety in Indiana, please contact the Automotive Safety Program at Riley Hospital at (800) KID-N-CAR or visit www.preventinjury.org.

The Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving serves as the public opinion catalyst and the implementing body for statewide action to reduce death and injury on Indiana roadways. The Council provides grant funding, training, coordination and ongoing support to state and local traffic safety advocates.

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The Judge's Chambers

Voter ID requirements may reduce voter American turnout

By Judge Greg Mathis

Election reform is a serious issue in this country, one that has to be dealt with. But denying American citizens the right to vote is not the way to do it.

And that's exactly what's happening in states that implement new identification requirements.

A new study shows that voter identification requirements designed to combat fraud may actually reduce turnout, particularly among voters of color. Data recently released by the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University shows voter turnout for the 2004 elections was about 4 percent lower in states that required voters to sign their names or produce documentation.

Turnout was 10 percent lower for Hispanics and about 6 percent lower for African Americans and Asians. With some states threatening to enact even stricter laws, it is a safe assumption that turnout would be reduced even further. This is simply not acceptable.

Federal law currently requires first time voters to verify their identities. Approved identification varies, ranging from Social Security cards to utility bills to signa-

tures. Only one state, Indiana, currently requires voters to produce a government-issued photo ID.

The federal government, however, would like to change that. The Federal Election Integrity Act would require voters to present government-issued identification at the polls. Though a Georgia court has declared such a law unconstitutional, the American government has continued to push it ahead. The House of Representatives passed the measure last year; the Senate has yet to vote.

According to a report sponsored by the Justice Department, such a requirement would disproportionately affect Latinos and African-Americans, the elderly, the homeless, low-income people and married women; studies show these groups are less likely to carry a photo ID.

Because the law is designed to prevent undocumented citizens from voting, voters would be required to prove citizenship with a photo ID. Since most states don't require citizenship to obtain a state ID or driver's license, the only piece of identification that meets this requirement is a passport, which can cost up to \$100. Recent statis-

tics indicate only 25-percent of voting age Americans have a passport; that number is significantly lower among minorities.

Several states, including California, Mississippi and Texas, are considering some version of a photo ID law this year.

In 1965, the United States made a commitment to historically disenfranchised people when the Voting Rights Act was passed by guaranteeing that no American would be denied the right to vote on account of race or color. However, given that large numbers of



Judge Greg Mathis
Chairman of the Rainbow PUSH-Excel Board and a national member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference

people of color do not possess government-issued photo identification, it seems that the original intent of the Voting Rights Act is being undermined.

If this government is committed to ensuring all Americans are able to participate in the political process, then it has to find a way to combat

election fraud without compromising the voting rights of citizens.

Judge Greg Mathis is national vice president of Rainbow PUSH and a national board member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

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Three time NBA champ and ex-Celtics star Dennis Johnson dies

AUSTIN, Texas - Dennis Johnson, the star NBA guard who was part of three championships and teamed with Larry Bird on one of the great postseason plays, died Thursday, collapsing after his developmental team's practice. He was 52.

Johnson, coach of the Austin Toros, was unconscious and in cardiac arrest when paramedics arrived at Austin Convention Center, said Warren Hassinger, spokesman for Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services.

Paramedics tried to resuscitate him for 23 minutes before he was taken to a hospital and pronounced dead, Hassinger added. Mayra Freeman, a spokeswoman for the medical



Dennis Johnson averaged 14.1 points and 5.0 assists during his career. When he retired, he was the 11th player in NBA history to total 15,000 points and 5,000 assists. The 5-time All-Star was on 2 championship teams in Boston and 1 in Seattle

examiner's office, said home games Friday and there will be an autopsy. Saturday nights, the NBA The Toros postponed Development League said.

"He was one of the most underrated players in the history of the game, in my opinion, and one of the greatest Celtic acquisitions of all time," said former Boston teammate Danny Ainge, now the Celtics' executive director of basketball operations.

"D.J. was a free spirit and a fun personality who loved to laugh and play the game. We had spoken at length just the other night about basketball and his excitement about coaching the Austin Toros."

Johnson played Toros player Jamar Smith in a game of 1-on-1 after practice and everything seemed normal, player Anthony Fuqua said.

"He was being Coach Johnson out there talking trash, playing basketball, dribbling around and shooting," Fuqua said. "Everything seemed fine. We're all in shock."

Toros spokeswoman Perri Travillion said she was talking with Johnson on the sidewalk outside the building when he collapsed. Johnson was joking about getting a parking ticket.

"We were laughing," she said. "He just collapsed."

Travillion said she called 911 and that Johnson never regained consciousness. She said Johnson did not appear to have overexerted himself at practice and didn't complain of any discomfort before he collapsed.

Johnson, a five-time All-Star and one of the top defensive guards, was part of the last Boston dynasty. He spent 14 seasons in the league and retired after the 1989-90 season. He played

on title teams with the Celtics in 1984 and 1986 and with the Seattle SuperSonics in 1979, when he was the NBA finals MVP.

"Whether he was leading his teams to NBA championships or teaching young men the meaning of professionalism, Dennis Johnson's contributions to the game went far beyond the basketball court," NBA commissioner David Stern said. "Dennis was a man of extraordinary character with a tremendous passion for the game."

Johnson was a favorite teammate of Bird's, and the two were part of one of the most memorable plays in Celtics history.

During the fifth game of the 1987 Eastern Conference finals against Detroit, Bird stole Isiah Thomas' inbound pass under Boston's basket and fed Johnson, who drove in for the winning layup. Boston won the series in seven games but lost to the Los Angeles Lakers in the NBA finals.

"Dennis was a great player, one of the best teammates I ever had, and a wonderful person," said Bird, now president of the Indiana Pacers. "My thoughts and condolences are with his family at this difficult time."

Bill Laimbeer, the center on that Pistons team, remembered Johnson as a "great player on a great ballclub."

"He played with passion and grit," Laimbeer said. "It was fun to play games like that. You always enjoyed it. It made for not only great games, but great entertainment."

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T r a v e l

American travelers seek benefits of physically challenging vacations

VANCOUVER, BC – According to a recent report published in January 2007 by Tourism British Columbia, “Travel Activities and Motivations of U.S. Residents: An Overview,” American travelers find it highly important when they take overnight pleasure or vacation trips to be challenged physically and to feel physically energized. This points to a hot trend in fitness travel, where more and more Americans (85% in Tourism BC’s research sample of 176.4 million total travelers) are vacationing to relieve stress and break free from their

day-to-day routines.

If your idea of an ideal vacation is lounging poolside with a best-selling novel and indulging in calorie-laden foods from an all-you-can-eat buffet, then be forewarned, you’ll definitely want to steer clear of Cat Smiley’s ‘Shape-Up’ adventure vacations. If, however, you’re looking for a way to return from vacation in better shape than when you left home, then you’ll definitely want to sign up for a fitness holiday at REO Rafting Resort.

REO, located in the pristine wilderness of the Fraser Canyon, just 2.5 hours drive from

Vancouver, has joined forces with Smiley, professional athlete and owner of ‘Kick Ass Workouts’. She was the first to introduce Canadian civilians to military-style Boot Camp workouts and is proud to have pioneered North America’s latest travel and fitness craze. Smiley is dedicated to working body transformations in the shortest time possible and ‘Shape-Up Vacations’ at the resort are offered in a choice of two sessions - July 1-6 or July 8-13, 2007.

‘Shape-Up Vacations’ combine daily workout sessions, a choice of three

REO adventure activities, nutritious meals, beverages, healthy snacks, accommodation in a river’s edge cabin tent with linen, resort amenities (hot tub, campfire entertainment, hot showers, private beach), personal fitness consulting and planning, daily power hikes, stretching and motivational talks.

“Whether your goal is to lose weight or supercharge your fitness routine, there’s no pressure and no competition, just a week of feeling great,” says Cat Smiley. “Recruits can expect to lose between 4 and 10 lbs in the week and no one is

too fit or unfit for Boot Camp. If you think you are, I dare you to try!”

Anyone who books & pays for their ‘Shape-Up Vacation’ by May 1, 2007 will receive an additional REO adventure activity FREE (\$100 value) and a signed copy of Smiley’s popular book: The Boot Camp Workout (\$25 value). For complete details, please visit http://www.reorafting.com/site/retreats/shape_up_vacation_boot_camp.html or www.catsmiley.com; call REO Rafting Resort toll-free at 1.800.736.7238 or e-mail info@reorafting.com.

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Tax Secrets of the Rich That EVERYONE Should Know

Former IRS Attorney reveals how to increase return on real estate by 10% to 15% -- even in slumping markets

Tax planning. Many of us think it's only for the super wealthy. The truth is most Americans could save thousands of dollars every year if we followed the tax strategies millionaires use to protect their wealth. Their secret: using real estate to slash their taxes—and with property values taking a hit in many markets, taking advantage of tax benefits could be the only gain people get for several years. Best of all, you don't have to be rich to reap the benefits.

“Nothing is more lucrative than tax planning,” says former IRS attorney and best-selling author Sandy Botkin, CPA, Esq. “If you look at the top 200 richest Americans, many made their fortunes in real estate. They know one of the secrets to getting rich is to pay the minimum tax required by law—and that takes keen knowledge and understanding of the tax code. So it's time to level the playing field and share those secrets.”

In his new book, *REAL ESTATE TAX SECRETS of the RICH*, Botkin reveals how to use your home and investment properties as legal tax shelters. He begins with the basics, explaining why you should own a home instead of renting. “Most Americans don't realize home ownership is the

key to building wealth and dramatically cutting taxes,” says Botkin. “If you think you can't afford a house, increase withholding and have fewer taxes taken out of your paycheck. The deductions you'll make as a homeowner offset the taxes and you'll have more cash each payday to afford the house payment.”

REAL ESTATE TAX SECRETS of the RICH is broken down into short chapters, each dedicated to outlining a tax-reducing strategy. For instance, what's the difference between a home improvement and a home repair; and which one qualifies as a tax deduction? Botkin uses clear cut examples to eliminate confusion. “For a tax deduction on your primary residence, you want to make improvements—not repairs,” says Botkin. “An improvement is when you replace or renovate instead of fixing a problem; like installing a new roof instead of just patching the shingles. However, the rules are different for investment property deductions and it pays off in a big way to know them.”

The book features easy to understand charts and examples and is formatted so that readers can easily share the information with their accountants. Each tax reduction tip includes the IRS regulations and income

tax code to explain why the tip works and how it's 100% legal. “Readers can take this book to their accountant and discuss tips that will work best for them,” says Botkin. “During my years at the IRS I realized most people and even many accountants don't know about these strategies. My first book, *Lower Your Taxes--BIG TIME!* explains how starting a home-based business results in huge tax savings. The huge response to that book showed me that people are thirsty for sound tax reduction strategies. Sharing real estate tax tips of the rich was a natural next step.”

REAL ESTATE TAX SECRETS of the RICH can show you:

- Why home ownership is vital to cutting your taxes
- How to pocket thousands of extra dollars when buying and selling your primary home, second home or investment property
- How to avoid a major tax trap of divorce (don't get a divorce until you read this!)
- How buying points on your mortgage can help you
- How to maximize deductions when building a home
- How to evaluate rates of return for investment property
- How to make your

record-keeping bullet proof

• How to take advantage of the new mortgage interest deductions and how to legally deduct interest on any amount of property debt

• How to properly classify repairs and improvements

• How to eliminate over two-thirds of all capital gains taxes on your properties

Botkin's extensive experience and knowledge make *REAL ESTATE TAX SECRETS of the RICH* a true 'home' reference guide for anyone who wants to pocket the money they've earned and slash their tax bill. “Why pay more in taxes than required by law?” asks Botkin. “I can show you how to save enough in deductions to pay for your kids' education or weddings. You earned the money; you should decide how to spend it.”

For a review copy of *REAL ESTATE TAX SECRETS of the RICH: Big-Time Tax Advantages of Buying, Selling, and Owning Real Estate*, by Sandy Botkin, CPA, Esq. (McGraw-Hill 2006; 226 pp. Paperback \$24.95) or to interview the author, contact Rachel Damien at 727-443-7115, ext. 206 or email rachel@event-management.com. Please include your name, publication, and mailing

address with your request.

Hardcover: 226 pages
Publisher: McGraw-Hill

Available at:
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www.barnesandnoble.com
www.borders.com
www.taxreductioninstitute.com

About the author:

Sandy Botkin, CPA, Esq. is a best-selling author and former trainer of IRS Attorneys. He is currently the Chief Executive Officer and Principal Lecturer of the Tax Reduction Institute based in the Washington, D.C. area. During the past ten years, he has taught more than 50,000 taxpayers how to save a combined total of more than \$300 million on their taxes. He consistently earns rave reviews for his clear and humorous presentations.

His previous book, “*Lower Your Taxes: BIG TIME*” (McGraw-Hill 2003) is an Amazon best seller. That book showed millions of readers the benefits of starting their own home-based businesses.

Mr. Botkin is also a member of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants. He is a ‘Distinguished Real Estate Instructor’ and is listed in “Who's Who in Business.”

continued from page 1

I'm so grateful to have my mother here celebrating with me, my boyfriend, my sisters, and my brothers back home, and then I got two of them here -- thank you all for being here and supporting me."

"I'd also like to thank Bill Condon, our director, who's a genius, [and] oh my God, our unbelievable cast. I'd like to thank the Academy, definitely have to thank God I guess -- again -- I can't believe this. Wow, I don't know what to say but thank you all for helping me keep the faith even when I didn't believe. Thank you and God bless you all. And Jennifer Holliday too!"

The 25-year-old former American Idol 3 finalist

award.

The Oscar win caps a remarkable awards season run for Hudson, who beat out more than 300 other women -- including Fantasia Barrino, American Idol's third season winner -- for the Dreamgirls role that represents her big-screen debut. In December, she co-won (along with Kikuchi) the National Board of Review's Best Female Breakthrough Performance award for her Dreamgirls role. Earlier this year, she won Golden Globe, Screen Actors Guild, and Broadcast Film Critics Association's Critics' Choice awards for the performance -- making her the heavy favorite to also win the Academy's award.

"We are rooting for you, and I have a feeling that you are going to win tonight," Idol judge Simon Cowell told Hudson in a pre-taped video message played by Idol host and E! News anchor Ryan Seacrest, who interviewed Hudson as part of E!'s red carpet arrivals coverage. "What you have done is literally extraordinary -- none of us would have called it, apart from me, who I think I did mention the word 'Oscar' when I first saw you in Chicago. I think you're going to win and guess what, you deserve it -- love you, lots of love, bye, bye."

"Wow, that was really nice, he made me mess up my makeup already and get to crying," Hudson told Seacrest after watch-



Jennifer Hudson holding her Golden Globe award

Jennifer Hudson Bio

Long before landing the coveted role of "Effie" in the film version of the legendary Broadway musical DREAMGIRLS, Jennifer Hudson sang for the very first time before a small church in her native Chicago, bringing the congregation to its feet with soul-stirring solo performances week after week. Hudson, now 25, attributes her vocal ability to her late maternal grandmother, Julia Kate Hudson, a long-time choir member. Jennifer's talent was cultivated through dozens of talent shows and musical productions during her grammar and high school years. She landed her first professional role in a local production of BIG RIVER. In 2002, she showcased her four-octave range and charmed thousands of vacationers from all over the world as a featured vocalist on the

Disney Wonder cruise ship. In 2004, she wowed millions of television viewers during season three of the wildly popular Fox series AMERICAN IDOL.

Tremendous buzz surrounded Hudson's much-anticipated DREAMGIRLS film debut as "Effie," a role she won over nearly 800 actors and singers vying for the part. DREAMGIRLS' Oscar-winning filmmaker Bill Condon explained, "Effie is such a hugely complex role. She is at once exasperating and heartbreaking. Jennifer emerged as the person who captured both sides."

ShoWest recently named Hudson the 2006 "Female Star of Tomorrow." Variety Magazine recently selected her as one of the "10 Actors to Watch" for 2006. Movieline has also named her one of its Breakthrough Actors of 2006.



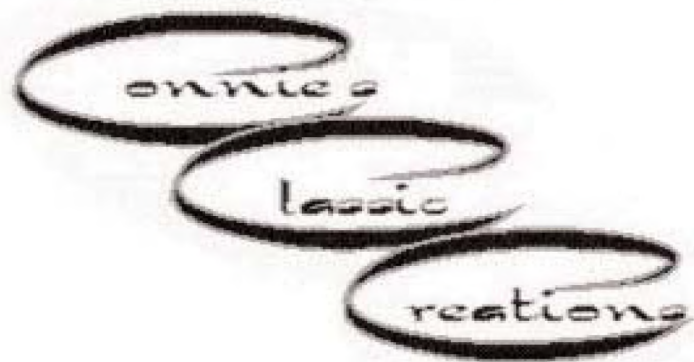
Lawrence Mark, Jennifer Hudson, and Bill Condon at the New York Premiere of DREAMGIRLS

beat out fellow nominees Adriana Barraza (Babel), Cate Blanchett (Notes on a Scandal), Abigail Breslin (Little Miss Sunshine) and Rinko Kikuchi (Babel) to win the

Prior to the awards ceremony, Hudson had received some words of support from the Fox reality show that gave her start.

ing Cowell's video.

"I've never seen him that heartfelt, have you?" Seacrest joked to Hudson. "No, is he OK?," Hudson joked back.



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T O B E E Q U A L

Financial Literacy Important Piece of Economic Empowerment puzzle

The National Urban League's economic empowerment agenda concentrate on four different areas jobs, homeownership, entrepreneurship and wealth accumulating. If we ever expect to close the economic gap that exists between blacks and whites in the united State our community needs to learn how to handle its finances. The success of the Urban League's agenda, hinges heavily on how well people manage their money and make it work for them instead of the other way around.

That is why we expanded a partnership with Citigroup to bring financial education services to more African Americans through our local affiliates' initiated in 2004 and available in 13 cities as of now, the program has helped more than 3,000 people to date. It's just one of six different programs we've launched with several other partners including Honda Financial, Freddie Mac, Allstate Corporation the investment Company Institute and Chrysler Financial. Altogether

More than \$12 million is being spent to

beef up financial literacy in the African American community through us.

The aim of our financial literacy efforts is to strengthen the social and economic fabric of the communities we serve through comprehensive result oriented programs tailored specifically for minorities, who tend to possess less financial knowledge and financial market experience than whites. We at the Urban League have long believed that financial education helps individuals overcome their reluctance or inability to manage their money to take full advantage of technological advances and product innovation. It equips African Americans with the ability to sort through the myriad of options out there equips African Americans with the ability to sort through the myriad of options out there and tailor a strategy that will most effectively serve them in light of their needs and goals. Currently nearly 40 affiliates have been directly involved in our efforts but every one has been touched in some way or the other.

For example our partnership with Allstate Corporation provides for the distribution of financial education materials to the entire affiliate network with no personal instruction.

As more and more African Americans make more money, buy their own homes and start their own businesses, they will have more disposable income to invest in the future of themselves, their children and grandchildren. It's not enough to get a job purchase a home, start a business and take care of your and their educational needs. We also have to think about building adequate nest eggs to carry ourselves through old age and to leave for future generations to build upon. Great wealth doesn't happen overnight oftentimes. It is carried down through generations. Our community needs to learn how to let money make money for us.

According to our 2006 State of Black America, the personal wealth of African Americans is one tenth of that of whites. And where blacks tend to concentrate the little



Marc H. Morial
president and
CEO of the
National Urban
League.

wealth they have is in their homes: In 2000, 61 percent of their net worth was tied up in their homes, twice the percentage of whites, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. A mere 4 percent was invested in stocks and mutual funds, compared to 16 percent for whites.

It's painfully obvious that African Americans are a lot more conservative than whites

When it comes to investing money in the stock market, which when played wisely can reap great rewards. We go for the safe choices our homes which given the housing market as of late, aren't always the most lucrative places to put our money in. We cannot hide from our finances just because they seem complicated and foreign to us. African Americans need to take the bull by the horns when it comes to their own financial education or risk squandering the

nest eggs they're working so hard to build. Where we also need to teach the value of financial literacy the most is with our children. On a financial literacy test of 4,000 high students conducted in 2004 by Jumpstart coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, blacks scored the lowest of all groups answering 44 percent of questions correctly compared to 55 percent for whites.

The earlier we teach our children early on about the value of money and what it can do for them in the long run, the faster we'll close the economic gap. But we cannot expect our children to be more financially literate than we are. There's really no excuse not to take responsibility for our financial health and pass our wisdom and financial legacy down to our younger generations.



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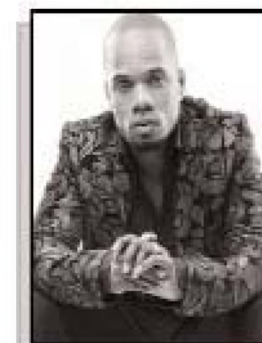
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WITNESSES FOR JUSTICE

Changing the future by supporting black owned business

America is filled with communities of ethnically and racially diverse people groups. The people in these communities, understandably, love and support one another spiritually, physically and financially. That support is apparent to me when I visit most of these communities. I expect to see places of worship that reflect the ethnic makeup of these cultures. I even expect to hear remnants of the language of the dominant ethnic group. Most importantly, however, I expect to see independent businesses that are heavily supported by the communities they serve.

Economic development is vital for the well-being of every community. If a community's residents do not support its businesses, then who can be expected to support them? Who will supply the food, clothing and materials needed for the cultural experiences that are unique to a particular ethnic group or culture? If a community's businesses are not supported, then how can the community survive and thrive and make a positive impact on the greater society? It should be expected that he community will supply its own needs and purchase from its own people whenever possible. That is the only way a community can remain viable.

Yet, when I visit Black communities, I see very few black owned busi-

nesses. Many of the Black businesses I do see are obviously not fully supported by their own people. Before the beginning of integration. Black businesses did very well in their own communities. Black businesses served the needs of people who were unable, for the most part, to assimilate, and were not welcomed into the greater society. Purchasing options for Blacks were limited, so Black businesses provided almost everything Black citizens needed for their up keep. Black people supported one another, not only in businesses, but in the whole of community life. When one rose, the whole community felt the positive movement. Likewise, when one fell, the community supported that person and helped him or her become more stable.

Now, after more than 30 years of integrated life, the buying power of Blacks has risen tremendously. According to the newest edition of , A Buying Power of Black America and Study, Black households spend more collectively than Hispanics or other minorities in virtually every consumer product and service category. Economic wealth flows from our communities yet there are fewer Black owned businesses in black communities than ever before.

How can that be? Internal racism has taught

Blacks that supporting their own is against the American way. Blacks have been taught to tear down one another rather than build each other up. Jealously, envy and strife flourish within the black community. However, if we look around at other racial and ethnic groups that prosper, we can see that they support their own whenever possible. Blacks offer more support to the businesses of other racial and ethnic groups in the Black community than to their own. I am not saying that other minorities or anyone that chooses to put

Bernice

Powell

Jackson



businesses in the black community should not have the right to do so. I am saying that black people should be creating jobs, putting economic development and wealth back into their own communities with the money that they earn, control and spend.

As we move into a time of remembering the history of blacks in America, let us recommit ourselves to changing the course of history for the future by pursuing greater economic wealth and development for the black community. By doing so, we will make life better for all.

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Children's Defense Fund makes kids' comprehensive health coverage its 2007 goal

By **Marian Wright Edelman**

The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) is fighting to make health coverage for all children a reality in America in 2007.

Chronic budget shortfalls, often confusing enrollment processes and dramatic variation in eligibility and coverage from state to state prevent millions of children currently eligible for Medicaid and for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) from living healthy and realizing their full potential in school and life.

As Congress prepares to consider renewal of funding for SCHIP in 2007, CDF believes there is a special opportunity and responsibility for our nation and leaders in all parties to take the next logical, incremental, smart and just steps to ensure health and mental health coverage for all children and pregnant women in America as a significant down payment on health coverage for all.

What our leaders do this year will likely determine child health policy for the next 5 years. We must not let

the more than 9 million uninsured children, including Katrina's children, be left behind. We must give them health and mental health coverage now.

How do families who need health coverage for their children cope now? CDF has talked to families across the country about their struggles, including a Columbus, Ohio, family which has been forced to fight the health care bureaucracy and their toddler's childhood cancer at the same time.

Mark was diagnosed with malignant Wilms tumors in his kidneys when he was 11 months old. Fortunately, he and his older brother were covered by SCHIP when his condition was originally diagnosed. But it was the beginning of a long and difficult journey for his single mother, Deanna, who was forced to quit her job to take care of Mark full time.

In October 2006, Deanna discovered that Mark had been eligible for Medicaid since April 2006. So she set out to enroll him in the Medicaid program process that turned into a frustrat-

ing, time-consuming ordeal. For 3 weeks, Deanna spent 3 days a week, for 4 hours at a time, at the Department of Jobs and Family Services, bringing her ill child along each time.

It then took 6 months of waiting, but Mark was finally approved for Medicaid. Deanna also learned that Mark qualified for assistance from the Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh), a state-administered program, and for Medicare under the disability coverage.

Although Mark's cancer is now in remission, he is in end-stage renal failure after losing both kidneys and is on dialysis for 10 hours each day. Because his appetite is very poor, he needs Suplena, a special nutritional shake made for dialysis patients. These shakes are the only nourishment standing between this 21-month-old and a feeding tube.

Suplena is covered under Medicaid and BCMh, but Mark's mother is still waiting for the paperwork to be processed. In the meantime, she has to pay, out of pocket, for the expensive supplements. This is a particular hardship because

the family lives on the \$627 per month that Mark receives from Supplemental Security Income, a federal program designed to help disabled people. Not only is Suplena expensive, but it's difficult to get the supplements. Medicaid has its own vendor and isn't a local supplier. A local grocer has begun carrying the supplement, but it is considered a non-food item, so Deanna can't purchase the shakes with food stamps. After many conversations and getting bumped from one agency to another, Deanna is hopeful the issue will be resolved soon.

Mark became cancer-free when they removed his second kidney in November 2006 and will be eligible for a donated kidney once he has been cancer free for a year. It has been one uphill battle after another for this mother and her son, but they continue to struggle through the system and the illness. But wouldn't it be better if the family could devote all its energy to fighting his cancer, instead of spending so much of it fighting their paperwork?

If you believe our nation can do better

for children, then you need to tell your elected officials that we and they must do better and make health coverage for all children with a streamlined enrollment process a reality this year. Mark and thousands of children like him need and deserve your voice. And any political leader who says they can't find the time or the money to help the millions of Marks who are uninsured this year should not get your vote next year.

Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund and its Action Council whose Leave No Child Behind mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

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NAACP names Draft Chosen to lead its 2007 corporate giving efforts

NAACP President & CEO Bruce S. Gordon has named Howard Draft the organization's 2007 National Corporate Campaign chair. The appointment was confirmed during the 98th NAACP National Board of Directors' annual meeting held in New York last month.

As NAACP Corporate Campaign chair, Draft will act as a liaison for corporate donors and serve as the spokesman for the campaign that seeks contributions for the NAACP from the business community.

"Howard is committed to our cause," said Gordon. "I'm confident

with Howard's leadership, we will exceed our goals." Draft, an entrepreneur, is chairman and CEO of the newly created Draftfc, the first (and only global) behavior-based, holistic marketing communications organization with a unified management team and a single profit and loss statement. An acknowledged marketing industry leader, the company has more than 9,000 employees in more than 110 countries.

"I've long admired the NAACP's commitment to combating racial discrimination in all its forms," said Draft. "Their determination to make sure all



Howard Draft

people are treated equally and without prejudice is very much in line with my own personal philosophy, which is to treat people the way you want to be treated. I'm honored to have been asked to chair the NAACP's 2007 Corporate Campaign and I will do all I can to encourage others to support the organization so that it can continue its important work." Previously,

Draft was chairman and CEO of Draft, the agency that combined with Foote Cone & Belding last year to create Draftfc. He was one of the agency's original 13 founders in 1978. He is credited with transforming the small direct marketing agency into one of the world's premier marketing communications networks with expertise in branding, advertising, direct and relationship marketing, promotions, retail, digital, sponsorship, media, and healthcare with a disciplined, relentless focus on creativity and accountability.

Through the years, marketers have turned

to Draft for his thought leadership in the art and science of connecting with consumers. His commentary and essays regularly appear in leading industry publications, and he frequently speaks around the world on advertising issues, trends and the future of marketing.

Draft serves on the board of directors of Chicago's After School Matters program and is a trustee of Pediatric AIDS Chicago. He is a father of three and a graduate of Ripon College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy and art history.

IDHS encourages Hoosiers to assess their own readiness during severe weather preparedness week

Indianapolis - The Indiana Department of Homeland Security is encouraging all Hoosiers to take advantage of Severe Weather Preparedness Week from March 4-10 by making sure they are ready for the possibility of a weather-related disaster or emergency.

Severe Weather Preparedness Week is a cooperative effort involving the National Weather Service, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana State Police, Indiana Department of Education, the American Red Cross, the Indiana

Broadcasters Association, and the amateur radio community.

"Nearly every year, Indiana deals with some form of severe weather such as tornados, damaging thunderstorms, and floods," said IDHS Executive Director Eric Dietz. "Preparedness at the individual and family levels can play a critical role in minimizing the potentially deadly results of these events."

Individuals and households are urged to create an Emergency Supply Kit that will allow them to be self-sustaining for at least three days if necessary. This kit should include items like water, non-per-

ishable food, battery-powered radios, flashlights, and medications.

A Family Emergency Plan should also be developed ahead of time so everyone in a household will know how to respond during a severe weather event. This plan should address issues such as how to contact each other during or after an emergency, and where to meet if an evacuation is necessary.

More information on creating an Emergency Supply Kit and developing a Family Emergency Plan can be found on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's preparedness Web site at www.ready.gov.



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NAACP honors the 'Father of Black History' in the United States

The following edited statement was issued by the NAACP in honor of African American History Month:



**Dr. Carter
Godwin Woodson**

Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history.

These are the words of Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, distinguished black author, editor, publisher and historian (December 1875 - April 1950). Woodson believed that blacks should know their past to participate intelligently in the affairs in our country. He strongly believed that black history, which others have tried so diligently to erase, is a firm foundation for young black Americans to build on in order to become productive citizens of our society.

Known as the "Father of Black History," Carter G. Woodson holds an outstanding position in early 20th century American history. Woodson authored numerous scholarly books on the positive contributions of blacks to the development of America. He also published many magazine articles analyzing the contributions and role of black Americans.

He reached out to

schools and the general public through the establishment of several key organizations and founded Negro History Week (precursor to Black History Month). His message was that blacks should be proud of their heritage and that other Americans should also understand it.

Woodson was born in New Canton, Buckingham County, Va., to former slaves Anne Eliza (Riddle) and James Henry Woodson. Although his parents could neither read nor write, Carter G. Woodson credits his father for influencing the course of his life. His father, he later wrote, insisted that "learning to accept insult, to compromise on principle, to mislead your fellow man, or to betray your people, is to lose your soul."

His father supported the family on his earnings as a carpenter. As one of a large and poor family, young Carter G. Woodson was brought

up without the "ordinary comforts of life." He was not able to attend school during much of its 5-month term because helping on the farm took priority over a formal education. Determined not to be defeated by this setback, Carter was able "largely by self-instruction to master the fundamentals of common school subjects by the time he was seventeen."

Ambitious for more education, Carter and his brother Robert Henry moved to Huntington, W. Va., where they hoped to attend the Douglass High School. However, Carter was forced to earn his living as a miner in Fayette County coal fields and was able to devote only a few months each year to his schooling.

In 1895, a 29-old Carter entered Douglass High School, where he received his diploma in less than 2 years.

From 1897 to 1900, Carter G. Woodson began teaching in Winona, Fayette County. In 1900, he returned to Huntington to become the principal of Douglass High School.; he finally received his bachelor's degree in literature degree from Berea College, Ky.

From 1903 to 1907, he was a school supervi-

sor in the Philippines. Later he traveled throughout Europe and Asia and studied at the Sorbonne University in Paris. In 1908, he received his master's degree from the University of Chicago. In 1912, he received his Ph.D. in history from Harvard University.

During his lifetime, Dr. Woodson developed an important philosophy of history. History, he insisted, was not the mere gathering of facts. The object of historical study is to arrive at a reasonable interpretation of the facts. History is more than political and military records of peoples and nations. It must include some description of the social conditions of the period being studied.

Woodson's work endures in the institutions and activities he founded and promoted. In 1915, he and several friends in Chicago established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. The following year, the Journal of Negro History appeared, one of the oldest learned journals in the United States. In 1926, he developed Negro History Week and in 1937 published the first issue of the Negro History Bulletin.

Dr. Woodson often

said that he hoped the time would come when Negro History Week would be unnecessary; when all Americans would willingly recognize the contributions of Black Americans as a legitimate and integral part of the history of this country.

Dr. Woodson's outstanding historical research influenced others to carry on his work. Among these have been such noted historians as John Hope Franklin, Charles Wesley, and Benjamin Quarles. Whether it's called Black history, Negro history, Afro-American history, or African American history, his philosophy has made the study of Black history a legitimate and acceptable area of intellectual inquiry. Dr. Woodson's concept has given a profound sense of dignity to all African Americans.

Related article:

2007 Black History Month Theme Books By Dr. Woodson

* THE EDUCATION OF THE NEGRO PRIOR TO 1861: A HISTORY OF THE EDUCATION OF THE COLORED PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES FROM THE BEGINNING OF

continued on page 29

continued from page 1

talent will make the awards an exciting evening to remember”

LL Cool J has had unparalleled success in all media, including music, film and television and has amassed a number of accolades for his work. He is a two-time Grammy Award winner, an NAACP Image Award winner and is a recipient of ShoWest's Male Star of Tomorrow, ASCAP's Golden Note Award and a Soul Train Lifetime Achievement Award.

Releasing his first hit, “I Can't Live Without My Radio,” in 1985 at age 17, LL Cool J quickly developed his own unique style. His first two albums, “Radio” and “Bigger and Deffer” made him a celebrity, but “Mama Said Knock You Out” estab-

lished him as one of hip-hop's genuine superstars.

Over his career he has released 12 albums. He will release his 13th album, “Exit 13,” in May.

In addition to his musical success, LL Cool J starred in his own television sitcom, “In the House” and appeared in several films, including “S.W.A.T.” with Samuel L. Jackson and Colin Farrell, “Last Holiday” with Queen Latifah, Oliver Stone's “Any Given Sunday” and “Deliver Us From Eva” with Gabrielle Union. Also an accomplished author, his fitness book, “LL Cool J's Platinum Workout,” is on The New York Times best seller list.

Three outstanding individuals will be honored during the NAACP Image Awards

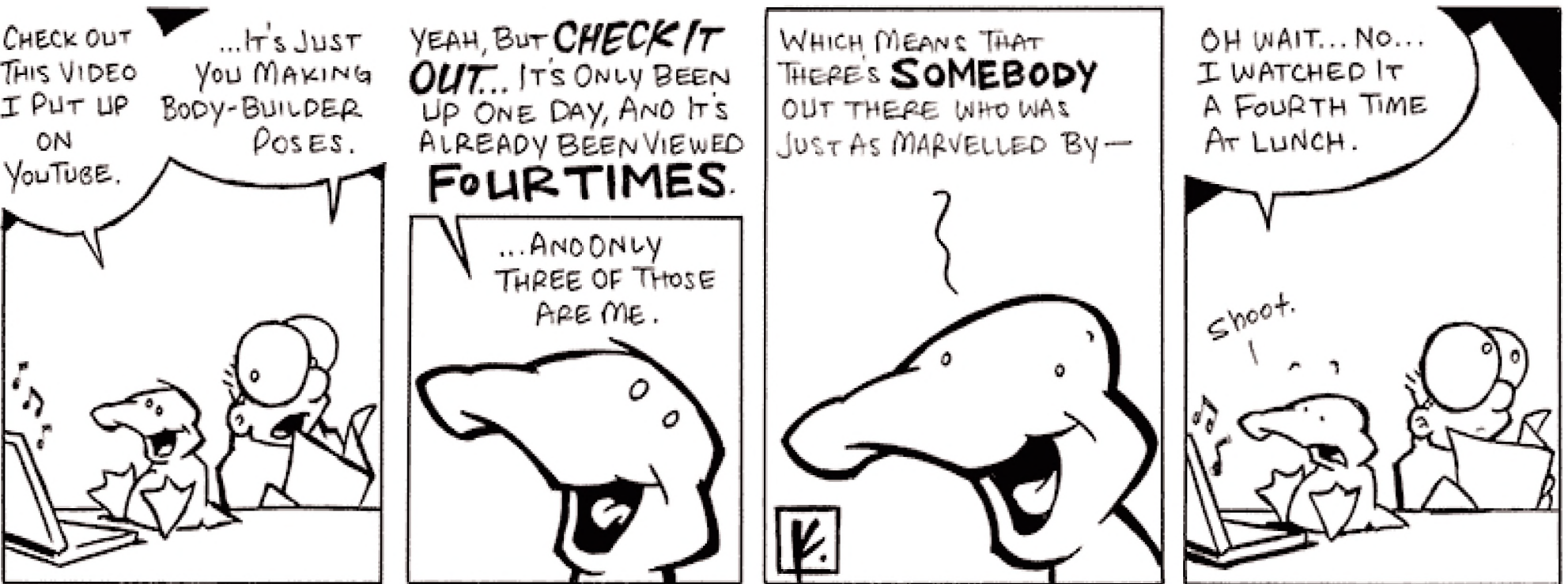


LL Cool J

telecast. CNN anchor Soledad O'Brien will receive the President's Award; legendary comedian, actor, author and past Image Award winner Bill Cosby will be inducted into the Image Awards Hall of Fame; and renowned musician and activist Bono will receive the NAACP Chairman's Award.

Major sponsors of the 38th NAACP Image Awards are FedEx, Verizon and General Motors. Additional sponsors include Allstate Insurance Company, American Airlines, Anheuser-Busch Companies, Ciroc, DaimlerChrysler, Ford Motor Co. and Sprint.

For more information on the NAACP Image Awards, please visit www.naacpimageawards.net.



Internet Acquisition Group Announces Expanding Client Base

Internet Acquisition Group, Inc. (OTCBB: IAGR) announced today that its client base continues to expand.

IAGR's client base has recently expanded to include a variety of new business clients by focusing attention on selling electronic goods and software. Towards the end of 2006, IAGR established a website (www.iagcompany.com) and is actively overseeing orders and its client's needs. Among the new clients utilizing IAGR's services is a CPA firm in Florida, two manufacturing firms in Indiana, a mortgage company in Florida and a fire protection services company in Florida.

Matt Lettau, CEO of Internet Acquisition Group, stated, "I am pleased that the company continues to add to its client base. We strive to eliminate the time consuming worries and hassles associated with the day to day purchasing and management of one's electronic goods and software specific to our clients' needs."

Lettau further stated, "Our goal is to provide our clients with a superior level of service. I firmly believe that we have a solid

business concept and that as business owners and managers learn of our out-sourced service, our company has the potential to continue expanding its client base."

"In addition to purchasing and management of our client's needs, our company strives to provide the lowest costs possible to our clients. We work to establish relationships with national vendors of electronic goods and software in order to negotiate discounts below their regular retail prices. Additionally, depending upon the vendor and the items being purchased, we also work to negotiate free or reduced rate shipping and handling, which we then pass a portion of those discounts on to our clients," stated Lettau.

About Internet Acquisition Group, Inc. (OTCBB: IAGR) - Internet Acquisition Group, Inc. is a publicly traded company trading on the OTC Bulletin Board under the symbol IAGR. IAGR specializes in professional purchasing management so that its clients can focus on the operations of their businesses. Specifically, IAGR assists clients by purchasing goods and ser-

vices specific to their needs and managing these services along with working to provide discounted prices on many products and services. For more information about Internet Acquisition Group, Inc., please visit the Company's website at <http://www.iagcompany.com>.

This press release may contain certain "forward-looking statements" as defined under U.S. federal securities laws. Generally, the words "believe," "expect," "intend," "estimate," "anticipate," "establish," "project" and similar expressions identify forward-looking statements, which generally are not historical in nature. Forward-looking statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from IAGR's historical experience and its present expectations or projections. These risks include, but are not limited to its ability to develop operations; its ability to increase its client base; actual revenues produced by the sale of its products; ability to capture market share; the effectiveness of advertising and mar-

keting programs; its ability to consummate and complete an acquisition of goods; the establishment of relationships with vendors; its access to future capital; government regulation; managing and maintaining growth; the effect of adverse publicity, litigation, competition, sales and other factors that may be discussed in IAGR's filings with the SEC, including its Annual Report on Form 10-KSB, Quarterly Reports on

Form 10-QSB, and Current Reports on Form 8-K, which reports are available from the SEC. You should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date they are made. IAGR undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements to reflect current events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.



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Indiana temporarily halts executions

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 2007 - After a thorough review of its state's death penalty system, an Indiana assessment team today released its final report and said the state needs to temporarily halt executions until it improves its administration of death penalty cases.

The assessment team, which conducted its work over the course of 20 months, determined the State of Indiana is in full compliance with only 10 out of 93 protocols included in its report. The team conducted the study under the guidance of the American Bar Association's Death Penalty Moratorium Implementation Project, a project of the ABA's Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities.

The project's reports and recommendations have not been presented to the ABA's policy-making House of Delegates, and so do not constitute policy of the association. The ABA neither supports nor opposes the death penalty, but it does urge a moratorium on executions in each jurisdiction until fairness and due process are assured in death penalty cases.

"The assessment team, which included legal professionals who are experts on Indiana's capital punishment system, urged a moratorium on executions, based on their thorough and painstaking review of

how the state applies the death penalty. We accept their view and agree that the state should temporarily halt executions until it can assure fairness and accuracy. During that time, prosecutors can still bring charges in these cases, courts can still hold trials and sentences can be imposed. But nobody should be executed until the problems identified by these experts are addressed," said ABA President Karen J. Mathis.

"Nobody benefits when mistakes are made in capital trials--not the victims or their survivors, not the defendants, and certainly not the public. This report on Indiana's capital punishment system addresses everything from police interrogations to adequacy of laboratory testing of evidence to trial procedures, appeals and clemency review, and identifies specific problems in every step of the process. It provides a sound starting point for state reforms that will provide greater assurance the system provides actual justice," said Stephen F. Hanlon, ABA project chair.

The full report and executive summary, including charts that identify specific recommendations and state compliance levels, are available on the ABA's Web site at <http://www.abavideonews.org/ABA340>. Additional information

about the Death Penalty Moratorium Implementation Project and the assessment project is also posted there. Joel Schumm, an Indiana University School of Law at Indianapolis professor, chaired the team that included:

Former Gov. Joe Kernan
James J. Bell, a member of the White Collar Practice at Bingham McHale and a two-term chair of the Criminal Justice Section of the Indiana Bar Association.
Sen. John Broden, who represents the 10th District of Indiana, including South Bend and Mishawaka, and is a member of the Senate committee on Corrections in Criminal and Civil Procedures.

Robert Gevers II, a private practice attorney in Fort Wayne who served as the Prosecuting Attorney for Allen County from 1995-2002.

Marce Gonzales, a sole practitioner from Merrillville who concentrates in criminal defense, appeals and defense of lawyer discipline cases and has served as a part-time appellate felony public defender for more than 20 years.

Paula Stites, assistant executive director of the Indiana Public Defender Council who has, since 1990, provided training, consultation and research assistance to attorneys representing capital charged or sentenced clients throughout the

state. She also monitors the status of all capital cases filed in the state.

A recent statewide survey conducted on behalf of the ABA found that three in five Hoosiers support a moratorium on executions in the state. Fully 61 percent believe there should be a temporary halt to executions in Indiana while the issue is studied. Just 31 percent oppose it. There is majority support for a moratorium in all corners of the state, including the Fort Wayne area (67% support), the Indianapolis area (57%), the South of the state (60%) and the Northwest (67%). Majorities of Democrats (72%), Independents (55%) and Republicans (58%) support a moratorium on executions. Self-described liberals (75%), moderates (59%) and conservatives (58%) alike support a temporary halt to executions.

"In granting clemency twice during my time as governor, I encountered circumstances that raised doubts about how we administer and review capital cases in Indiana. This report has clarified and quantified enough concerns about the process that I believe a moratorium on executions in Indiana is required. It should be followed by a thorough review by all three branches of Indiana government to guarantee that Indiana's capital sentencing system is fair and just in every case," said Joe

Kernan, who served as Indiana's governor from September 2003 through December 2004.

In assessing the state system, the team measured Indiana law, procedure and practices against protocols developed by the ABA to evaluate death penalty jurisprudence. It found Indiana is in compliance with 10 protocols, in partial compliance with 36, not in compliance with 21, and one was inapplicable. For 24 of the protocols, the team was unable to obtain enough information to assess compliance.

Broad areas identified as being in need of reform are:

- * Inadequate qualification standards for defense counsel.
- * Lack of an independent statewide authority to appoint capital defense counsel.
- * Lack of meaningful proportionality review of death sentences.
- * Significant capital juror confusion.
- * Racial disparities in Indiana's capital sentencing.
- * Death sentences imposed on people with severe mental disabilities.

While each section of the report lists recommendations based on the ABA's protocols, the team also recommended state action independent of the protocols:

- * Require all biological evidence to be preserved

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for as long as the defendant remains incarcerated.

- * Adopt a law or rule to exclude individuals with serious mental disorders from being sentenced to death or executed.

- * Develop minimum education and training requirements for all county coroners.

- * Adopt increased qualification standards and monitoring procedures for capital lawyers at trial and on appeal, and qualification standards for capital lawyers in state post-conviction proceedings that are consistent with the ABA guidelines. In addition, workload requirements should be amended to state that no attorney may have more than two capital cases at any given time.

- * Require all law enforcement agencies to videotape the entirety of custodial interrogations in murder cases at police precincts, courthouses, detention centers, or other places where suspects are held for questioning, or, where videotaping is impractical, audiotape the entirety of the custodial interrogation.

- * Create an independent appointing authority made up solely of defense counsel that is responsible for appointing defense attorneys.

- * Offer training for all defense counsel and prosecutors involved in capital cases.

- * Collect information on potentially death-eligible murder cases, to facilitate review of whether sen-



tences are imposed proportionately.

- * Allow petitioners to raise free-standing claims of error, or even fundamental errors, in a post-conviction proceeding.

- * Complete and release the state's ongoing study to determine whether unacceptable sentencing disparities exist.

- * Redraft capital jury instructions with the objective of preventing common juror misconceptions that have been identified in the research literature.

Indiana is the fifth of eight states being assessed under the ABA project, which developed the protocols in 2001. Georgia, Alabama, Florida and Arizona preceded Indiana. Other assessments are being conducted in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee. Neither the protocols nor the individual state assessment reports have been adopted by the ABA House of Delegates.

With more than 413,000 members, the American Bar Association is the largest voluntary professional membership organization in the world. As the national voice of the legal profession, the ABA works to improve the administration of justice, promotes programs that assist lawyers and judges in their work, accredits law schools, provides continuing legal education, and works to build public understanding around the world of the importance of the rule of law in a democratic society.

R E L I G I O N

B e i n g A w a r e o f G o d ' s P r e s e n c e

By Paul Price

"And Jacob awaked out of his sleep and he said. Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not. And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven"

Genesis 38:16-17

From a reading of this passage it is obvious that Jacob did not expect this event in his young life.

In the way God deals with men, He often comes to them in unexpected moments and unexpected ways. He lets us go through life in the way life is without changing a thing until all of a sudden His presence is made known to us. That is when we become conscious that God is with us.

The ability to be conscious and aware is a matter of our hearts. The best photographer has to have a good film before he can produce a good picture. Today's technology has produced film and equipment that enables us to photograph from space satellites small objects such as the numbers and letters on the license plates on our cars.

Sensitive equipment spans the scores of miles to record details of the activities on earth. The film did not create the activity, but its sensitivity reveals the presence of the activity. In like manner,

our hearts must be sensitive to the activity of God before we are aware of His presence among us.

God is active among us, but it is our ability to record, to understand, to be impressed and to be enlightened that is often limited by earthly things. Our carnal orientation often obscures our insights into the realm of the Spirit.

Through the years, I have struggled in looking and studying the Word of God and studying men that have known God. I have asked myself the question, How does a person know God? How can he find God? The answer lies in a very special something that is very uniquely built in us, the Spirit of God that He has given to us. Only by the Spirit can a person really know God. All the learning that he may accumulate will never bring him to the knowledge of God.

**"If I should die
before I wake"**

To be aware of the presence of God is the most beautiful, adventurous experience in a person's life. We can all recall the little prayer that was often recited when we were going to bed at night as children: "Now I lay me down to sleep I pray the Lord my soul to keep, if I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul shall take." That last phrase always troubled me

"If I should die before I wake.' However, I have viewed this phrase in a spiritual sense. I hate to think that I lived all my life and never woke up, that I was never really conscious of who I was and with whom I lived.

People have walked through life and interacted with great men without really being conscious of their privileges until the great men were dead and gone. It is terrible not to be aware, yet sometimes we are so cumbered by the activities of normal living that God has a special place in our lives only on a Sunday morning at a certain time. We often restrict finding God to a particular time place.

But we should look in the Bible at the interruption that God brings to people's lives when they were not "in the Temple." Some things happened in the Temple, but many encounters with God came in other places and at unexpected moments. God has not limited His presence of activities to a building or to a calendar.

Our Day and God's Day

When we are really aware of the presence of God, there is a divine thread that runs through our lives, a thread that connects us to His life and His life is a different life from ours because His eternal.

We live what we call a twenty four hour day.

Often we refer to the words of Psalm 118:24 .

"This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." God made the twenty four hour day, but He also made a day which is more than twenty four hours. A thousand years is as one day with the Lord. In other words, the Lord's day is far superior to our day, for it spans time to enter the dimension of eternity. Our day is only part of the story.

When we connect our short day with God's great day, we become aware that we are living in eternity right now. But are we not governed by time? Yes, we are. But God made time and He can adjust a time. He can adjust the clock. He can move the sun back. He can change a calendar. We do not need to live in the confined earthly realms of human existence, for our awareness of God's presence lifts us into His eternity.

Every day in our lives brings new happenings.

I had a very special uncle who was very close to me during my young life. My uncle was the kind of person that makes a boy want to be around him. I have many good memories of my uncle, of the high points of his life touching my life. It was a shock to me when I received the news one day that he was killed in automobile accident. His wife's remark that evening

in her home has echoed in my mind many times.

"Today when he (my uncle) stood at his sink and talked to me, I felt like I should say something to him, but I just didn't do it. I just wished that I had said it, but I didn't. I wanted to tell him that I loved him, but I failed to say the words."

How many times do we restrain our feelings because we think there will be another day? But there may not be another day.

Everybody who has known God was keenly aware that every day proposes new journeys of discovery with Him. How many times do we Christians live in a strait-jacket of certain kinds of spiritual confinement? It is time for us to break out of our limitations. It is time to wake up! The day is here; it is time to get out of bed and shine. The world looks brighter today than it did yesterday.

While it may be true that most of our generation is following the downward path toward eternal destruction, we are on our way to heaven right through the middle of this world's corruption. We are serving the living God. We are aware of his presence, of the Holy Ghost, of God's power in us. We are divine beings with a touch of God upon us. We are attached to a higher day than this earthly day,

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for this day is not the final day but the beginning of an eternal day. We live in the beginnings, and we will never come to the end because God never ends.

When a person wakes up and starts living, he finds that he will enjoy his wife, his friends, and his neighbors. He begins to be aware how valuable they are to him.

Making time and stumbling over opportunities

God has a lot of surprises for us if we will be sensitive to His presence. Are we merely making time and stumbling over opportunities? God does not announce ahead of time when He is going to bring an opportunity, but suddenly the moment is with us.

When Joseph went to the field to meet his brothers, he did not know that on that day he would be thrown into a pit, sold as a slave, and transported to Egypt. He did not know what the day would bring, but he was aware of the presence of God.

Joseph lived every day as an explorer of the will of God. In every circumstance he never lost consciousness of the presence of God. He was not merely marking time and stumbling over opportunities.

We must never allow our jobs or our lives to become routine. We must not stand with our feet moving but going nowhere. If we are dull to our circumstances, we will stumble over the best opportunities of our lives.

We should never be a slave for anybody but God. We have jobs and responsibilities in our social/ economic world, but God is to be a part with us in our work. When we put God into what we are doing, it does not become a task for eight hours and for a paycheck, but it becomes an opportunity for us to live in His wondrous will.

Who knows but what this day may be shocker to us. What an hour when Joseph, who was in prison, was told that Pharaoh wanted to see him! That morning he had gotten up as any other day. The prison keys at his side, he had walked down the corridors, said hello to his fellow prisoners, encouraged them to clean their cells and admonished them to make the most of their day in the dismal confines of a dungeon prison. Joseph had taken care of his duties that day as a prisoner. But before the day was over, he was given a royal blue robe, had a regal ring placed on his finger, was provided a chariot and a house. He was elevated to new responsibilities and a better life.

It happened in one day. But if he had been asleep all those years waiting for this day, he would have never recognized the opportunity. It would have passed him by. He would not have realized the destiny of his steps if he had not been sensitive daily to the presence of God in his life.

We must learn that God never sends an opportunity unless it is wrapped in

a problem. The packages are the hard things to handle. But when we see what is inside the packages, when we become aware of what God is doing with us and to us, we will know that the gift inside is worth problem outside.

When we see only the problem, we are tempted to ask God to remove the problem or us from the problem. But God uses the problem to wake us up, to probe us to look for opportunity. Then one day we stumble on what God has for us. It had been there all the time, but we were so asleep that we did not realize the opportunity to make our mark for God.

God has ways of helping us open the packages, to become aware of the divine touch of God in people's lives every day.

A man in a congregation one time was working under a tremendous nervous strain. He was fussing and fighting on his job at a factory where each person was paid by the pieces he completed. One rude employee would hurriedly grab the material, often making it difficult for others. The atmosphere became so hostile between the two men that the Christian experienced such anxiety that at night he could hardly rest. He developed ulcers and suffered from general nervous tension.

During one service, his ministers taught on the subject of Christians doing good to those who despitefully use them. He admonished the congregation to enjoy life, to accept

adversity as an opportunity to allow God to work in their lives. He encouraged the people to be aware of God in their problems to realize that God has a purpose in their difficulties. He told them that living ordinary lives can be exciting and thrilling when people are constantly aware of the divine presence of Jesus Christ.

The Christian employee felt convicted. After he went home that night, he prayed through his problem. He told God that he was going to love the fellow employee who had been rude, that he was going to give materials to him rather than struggle with him.

The next day at work, he told the other worker to be first in getting material. He had been grabbing, snatching, pulling snorting, but it did not work, so he told the man to help himself, that he would take what was left. He related later that all day long he sang a song, that he took the attitude that whether he made a dime or not he was going to enjoy the day.

The hard to live with employee in a week's time quit, he had been working at the place twenty years. As soon as the Christian obtained the victory in his soul, God moved the problem out of the way.

Spiritual victory will remove the problem. Either the problem will move or the awareness of God in a person will give him power to overcome the problem with joy.

It is difficult to explain why God bypassed other great men in Jerusalem to

reach a man that was breathing out threatening against the church. But God not only called Paul but He also placed him in a most prominent position in the Early Church.

A man that is aware of God will always be thrilled at everything that happens. That is why David's psalms are like they are He was a fellow who started complaining in the first verse but was shouting in the last. The reason was that he became aware of the presence of God.

Ordinary living often cheats us because we think we have to feel a shocking, powerful, earth shaking experience to be aware of God. But sometimes God comes to us as a quiet voice or presence inside. We become aware that He is directing our lives.

A time to be awake

We are living in a most momentous moment in the history of the church. We have come to a day that the greatest decisions of our future are going to be made. The future is being made today, not tomorrow. Men are setting the direction of the future by their actions, their lives and their dedication.

It is not the organized machinery that makes the church great. But it is the awareness of the Holy presence of Almighty God. If the church loses that touch of God, it will be like any other group with no inspiration and with no power.

It is a great day to see

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02 Pont. Grand Prix GTP
Leather, Loaded, Moonroof, Super Charged



03 Saturn ION
AT, AC, CC, 4 Cyl



98 Ford Escort Wagon
83 K Miles, 4 Cyl, Nice!



00 Chevy Silverado Z-71
Ext Cab, 4 Dr, Full Pwr, SHARP!



00 Lincoln Town Car
Signature Series, V8, Loaded, Leather



01 Chevy Tahoe
Loaded, Heated Seats, 95 K Miles



04 Pont. Grand Prix
Leather, Sunroof, SHARP!



03 Cadillac CTS
NICE!, Leather, Navigation, Loaded, All Options!



01 Mazda Protégé 5
AC, 38K Miles, CD, NICE!



01 Lincoln LS
V8, Moonroof, Leather, Full Power

IRS reminds Hoosier taxpayers to file for one-time phone excise tax refund

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.-- The Internal Revenue Service has urged Hoosier taxpayers to check to see if they qualify for the telephone excise tax refund after more than 10 million early filers did not request the one-time refund. In the first release of this year's weekly filing season statistics, about 30 percent of all taxpayers did not request the telephone tax refund.

During a recent 3-week period, over 650,000 federal tax returns were filed in Indiana. About 30 percent of those returns failed to request the Telephone Excise Tax Refund. This amounts to a minimum of \$6 million that Hoosier taxpayers could have received.

The government stopped collecting the long-distance excise tax last August, after several federal court decisions held that the tax does not apply to long-distance service as it is billed today. Federal officials also authorized a one-time refund of the federal excise tax collected on service billed during the previous 41 months, stretching from the beginning of March 2003 to the end of July 2006. The tax continues to apply to local-only phone service.

To make the refund easier to figure, the gov-

ernment established a standard refund amount, based on personal exemptions, ranging from \$30 to \$60. If taxpayers have phone bills and other records, they can request the actual amount of excise tax paid. Though using the standard amount is optional, it is easy to figure and approximates the eligible amount for most individual taxpayers. Taxpayers only have to fill out one line on their return, and they don't need to present proof to the IRS.

For people requesting the telephone tax refund, it adds \$30 to \$60, or even more, on to a refund. The IRS wants to make it as easy as possible for anyone who paid the tax to get this special refund. If you paid the tax and haven't filed yet, here are some tips to help you figure the refund correctly and get it quickly:

*File electronically. Electronic-filing software flags often overlooked tax breaks and helps you figure them accurately and report them properly. If you use a professional tax preparer, ask that person to e-file your return.

* E-file for free. If your income is \$52,000 or less, use the Free File link on IRS.gov to connect to a private-sector



company offering free e-file services.

* Choose direct deposit. Whether you file electronically or on paper, you can get your refund at least a week sooner by having it deposited directly into your checking or savings account.

* Consider using the standard refund amount for the telephone-tax refund. Though using the standard amount is optional, it is easy to figure and approximates the eligible amount for most individual taxpayers. You only have to fill out one line on your

return, and you don't need to present proof to the IRS. The standard amount, ranging from \$30 to \$60, is based on the number of exemptions you can claim on your return.

* If you paid more than the standard amount, you may figure your refund using the actual amount of tax shown on your phone bills and other records. Base your refund request on the 3 percent federal tax paid, not the total phone bill. Do not count tax paid on local-only service. You must have the phone bills or other records

adequate to support the amount you are requesting. These documents should not be sent along with the refund request but should be retained in case the IRS questions the amount requested.

* Do not file duplicate requests. If you file a regular income-tax return, do not file Form 1040EZ-T. Designed exclusively for requesting the telephone tax refund, this simple form is for people who don't need to file a regular income-tax return. If you want to take advantage of the earned income tax credit for low and moderate income workers, the child tax credit or other tax breaks, file a regular return and include your telephone-tax refund request on that return.

* Stay away from tax preparers who falsely claim that many, if not most, phone customers can get hundreds of dollars or more back under this program.

* Use the Telephone Excise Tax Refund section on the front page of IRS.gov. Here, you can download forms, find answers to frequently-asked questions and link to participating Free File partners.

continued from page 28

the glory of heaven come down and work among His people. This very hour is the time that everyone should be awake, start living and enjoying God in His fullness. God may have some surprises for us. Who knows if another Apostle Paul may be born today? Who knows if another Simon Peter may stumble off a boat somewhere and fall into the church?

We may think we are looking at the greatest people living now. It could be that they have not been converted. They may be on the streets in our cities. Would it surprise us if God would anoint someone to awaken our generation to revival beyond any revival or evangelism since the days of the apostles?

Somebody may touch the presence of God and take us a step higher than we have ever been. We need to remember that God is not limited to our abilities. He can take a man out of this world that has never felt God and so impress him with fresh faith, so remove the clutter from his mind, and so endow him with a zealous spirit that he will change our world toward God.

It is easy for us to become bogged down with the church problems, saint problems, personnel problems, but we need to be wrapped up in Jesus.

Ordinary people never change a world. It is fanatic folks who will step out from the crowd with an awareness of God in their lives to blaze a new trail.

This is a momentous era for the church. Let us not stumble over opportunities, but be awakened to the presence of God in our lives.

The drums are beating;

heaven is with us. The torch of the Spirit is upon us, and God is preparing us for the grand finale of the ages. He never ends anything on a downbeat, but always on an upbeat.

We are nearing the great celebration He made possible by the Cross. In preparation for that moment, we need to avail ourselves of the very best God has for this genera-

tion.

Let us be awake and aware, for the glory of God is upon us and in us.

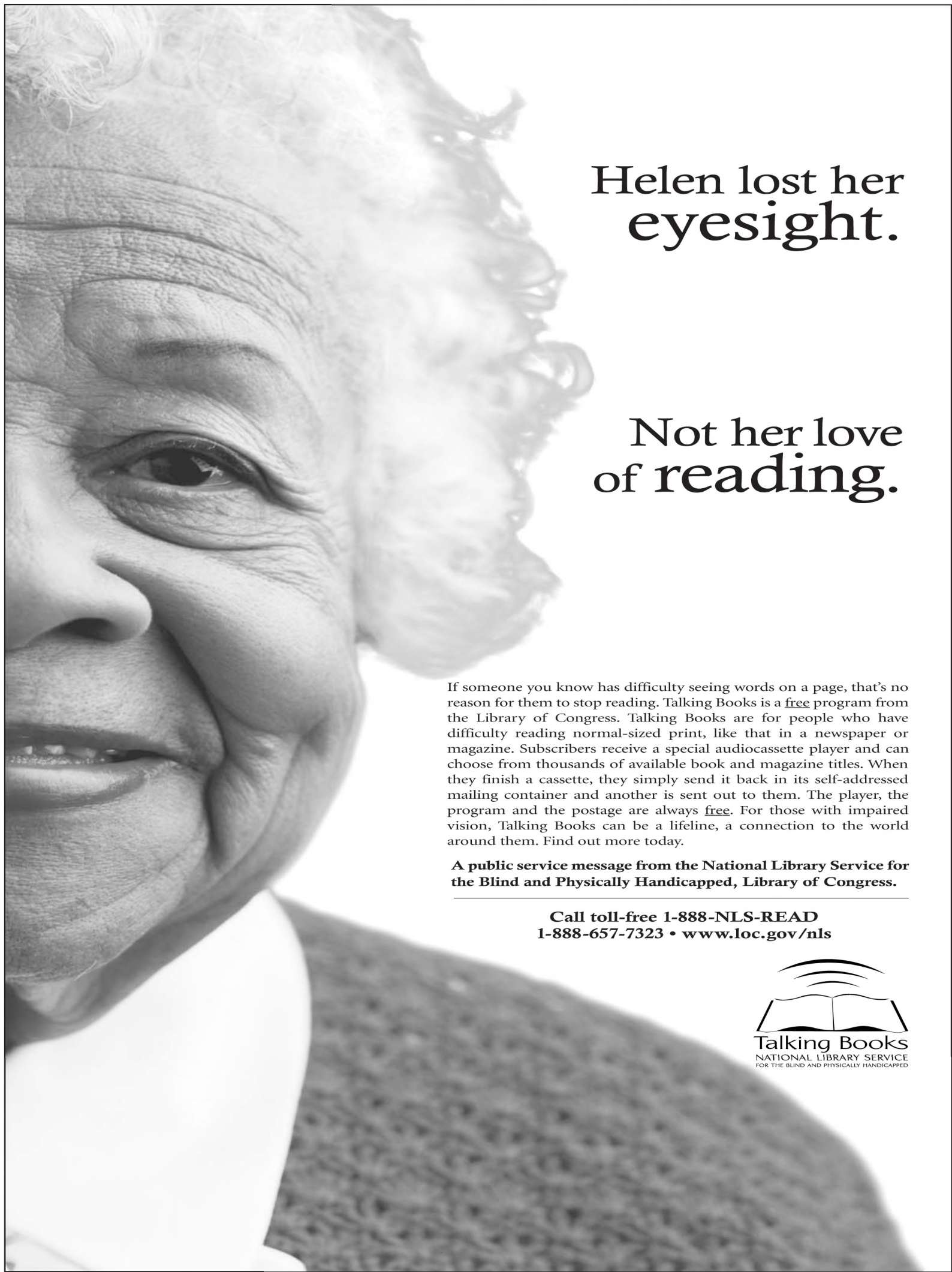
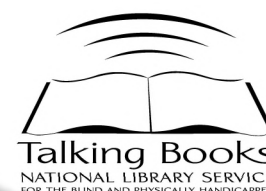
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POETRY CORNER

Raindrops from Heaven

If I close my eyes
I can hear
The gentle drops
Of the rain so very clear
Each drop
Sounds like a melody
Of God's music
The playing of Heavens
symphony
He washes away
The troubles of the day
All that is soiled with sin
God makes us pure
again
It is like
Being baptized all over
again
Being reborn
To live to praise his
name, "Amen"
Is God's way
Of cleansing this Earth
Eliminating the devil's
work
Rebirth
God gives us the tools
To make it each day
To follow in his path of
glory
In his name we pray
So he baptized me
Resurrected me
Rejuvenated my soul
Within me God is in
control
Have you ever
Listened to the melody
of the rain
The continuous beat
Over and over again
As Heaven gates are
open
And the water of purity
flows free
And the salvation of
God's
Like a rainfall drenches
me
Today
I kneel and pray
And each new day
I follow God's way
Amen

Written by Gene Cole

HE CALLED ME FRIEND

WHEN I WAS LOST
AND ALONE,
HE CALLED ME
FRIEND.
WHEN I WAS TRAV-
ELING DOWN SATAN'S
ROAD,
HE CALLED ME
FRIEND.
JESUS CALLED ME
FRIEND,
AND STRETCHED HIS
ARMS OUT FOR ME.
HE TOOK ALL MY
SINS UPON HIMSELF,
WHEN HE DIED ON
CALVARY.
IN MY DEEPEST
DARKEST HOUR,
HE CALLED ME
FRIEND.
WHEN MY HEART
TURNED BITTER AND
SOUR,
HE CALLED ME
FRIEND.
JESUS CALLED ME
FRIEND,
AND SHOWED ME
HIS AMAZING LOVE.
HE MADE MY LIFE
WHOLE AGAIN,
AND HE GUIDES ME
FROM ABOVE.
I LIVE A LIFE BRAND
NEW,
BECAUSE HE
CALLED ME FRIEND.
LORD I GIVE MY
LIFE TO YOU,
YOU CALLED ME
FRIEND.

Written by Timothy L. Franks

As I Sit Here

As I sit here, and think
about my life, and look
upon the past,

I am awed and amazed,
by Your guiding hand, by
Your wondrous plan for
me.

So fill me with determi-
nation to obey, even when
I don't understand.
And fill me with excite-
ment in sharing Your
word, to show how grate-
ful I am.

As I kneel here, and
praise Your holy name,
and thank You in prayer,
I am overwhelmed by
Your blessings, by all
You've done for me.
So fill me with zeal and
passion for doing good
works, in the name of
Jesus Christ.
And fill me with perse-
verance in suffering, to
keep giving You my life.

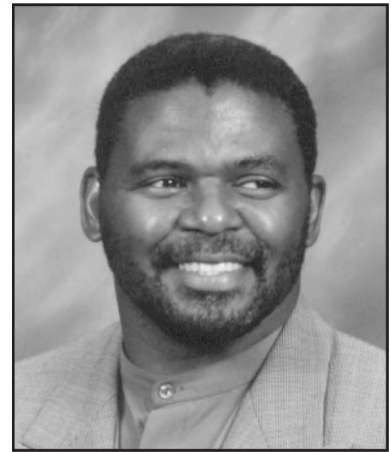
As I stand here, and
preach to the lost, and
speak of Your love,
I am humbled, that I
could share You're word,
that You'd want to use me.
So fill me with Your
love for all mankind, even
those who don't love me.
And fill me with Your
holy anger against evil, so
I can be like Thee.

Written by David Hicks

L-O-V-E

I cannot think of any
word
That I would place
above
The little word that
means so much,
L-O-V-E, love.
It's used to mean so
many things,
But do we understand
How wide, how deep,
how high it goes,
How much it means to
man.
Because of love God

Clarence Motley and Friends



gave His Son
Who died for you and
me,
Because of love Jesus
gave His life
On a cross at Calvary.
Because of love we sac-
rifice
For spouse, for child, or
friend,
Because of love we learn
to forgive
Each other again and
again.
Give of yourself and of
your goods,
What a wonderful way
to say
That you have love
enough to share
With someone else
today.
To show the world how
much you love
Would in no way be hard
If at the center of that
love
We find the core is
GOD.

Written by Charles Lee Taylor

America.....Still Free

The essence of her
aroma...causes me to
breathe in
uncontrolled gasps
reaching out to her so..
she will know that i am

part of her
spewed from her womb
as an infant from its moth-
er
Will she acknowledge
that i am the servant...
and She, the one most
worthyof that service
Will
she allow her beauty to
be..
scarred by untender
hands..
be suffocated with
untruths and imorality?
Torn from her contents
razed by the weakest of
the weak....and made to
weep?
because of sadistic
birthing
become the least of the
least?
Her breast-plate is strong
Her spear is honed to
perfection
penetration will not
occur
Her chastity will remain
unspoiled....gate-keeper for
all She endures for her
servants
Her greatness is given
from love
She is from a promise.
She is still free!

Written by Edward M. Hamblin

COOKING

SUVIR SARAN Executive Chef of DVeda & Author of Indian Home Cooking



“In the kitchen, I found the answers to all my curiosities,” says New Delhi-born chef Suvir Saran. While his brother and sister went to sports events or concerts, Saran was lured by the fascinating rituals of the kitchen – both the culinary and spiritual center where he cultivated his passion for the traditional flavors of Indian cooking. Saran is at once faithful to the authentic homemade dishes of his youth, and also a champion of the great diversity that India has to offer and the continual evolution of these multitude flavors.

Recipes

Selected recipes from Indian home cooking

- * Chilled yogurt soup with cucumber and mint
 - * Stir-fried carrots with cumin and lime
 - * Simple lahori chicken curry
 - * Lamb curry with coriander, garam masala and coconut
 - * Mangalore fried shrimp
 - * Auntie susan's orange flan
 - * Indian fruit punch
 - * Cucumber raita
 - * Rice pilaf with "standing" spices
 - * stir-fried carrots with cumin and lime (gaajar kee sabzi)
- Serves 4-6

I am not especially fond of carrots but I really do love them in this dish. Perhaps it's because they are grated – they seem to absorb the

flavors of the spices better. Their sweetness is accentuated by the taste of the cumin and the bitterness of the fenugreek. Serve this warm, as a vegetable, or chill it and serve it as a salad.

- 2 1/2 tablespoons canola oil
- 2 teaspoons black mustard seeds
- 1 inch fresh ginger, peeled and cut into a fine julienne
- 1/2 fresh, hot green chili, minced
- 3 whole, dried red chilies
- 1 teaspoon cumin seeds
- 8 fresh or 12 frozen curry leaves, torn into pieces, optional
- 1 1/2 pounds carrots, peeled and grated on the large holes of a grater
- 3/4 teaspoon salt, or to taste
- Juice of 1/2 lime or lemon

1. Combine the oil and mustard seeds, if using, in a large wok, kadai or frying pan over medium-high heat. Cook, stirring, until the mustard seeds crackle, 1 to 2 minutes.

2. Add the ginger, fresh and dried chilies, cumin and curry leaves, if using, and cook stirring, until the ginger crisps a little, about 1 1/2 minutes. (Stand back if using curry leaves; they spit when they hit the oil)

3. Add the carrots and cook, stirring, until warmed through, 3 to 4 minutes. Stir in the salt and the lime or lemon juice. Taste for salt and serve hot or cold.

Simple Lahori Chicken Curry with Onion and Tomato

Serves 4

We have a saying in India that a person who hasn't seen Lahore has yet to be born. Lahore is a city in what is now Pakistan. The hub of the land trade between India and the Middle East, it used to be called “the Paris of the East” because it was such an important center of high culture in India. Now, I'm sad to say, neglect and bad government have diminished that exquisite city. The street foods

and meat preparations of Lahore are still legendary, though. This chicken curry is a staple for Lahoris and a good first chicken dish for the novice Indian cook. Serve it with rice and a raita.

- 4-pound chicken, cut into 8 to 10 pieces and skinned
- 3/4 teaspoon turmeric
- 3/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- Salt
- 1 1/2 medium onions, roughly diced
- 5 garlic cloves
- 2 inches fresh ginger, peeled and cut in half crosswise
- 3 tablespoons canola oil
- 2 inches cinnamon stick
- 12 green cardamom pods
- 9 whole cloves
- 9 black peppercorns
- 2 large tomatoes, chopped
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1/4 cup yogurt, whisked until smooth
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- Juice of 1 lemon

1. Combine the chicken, 1/2 teaspoon of the turmeric, 1/2 teaspoon of the cayenne and 1/4 teaspoon salt in a bowl and stir to coat the chicken with the spices. Let stand while you make the sauce.

2. Finely mince the onion, garlic and ginger in a food processor and set aside.

3. Combine 2 tablespoons of the oil, the cinnamon, cardamom, cloves and black peppercorns in a large casserole over medium-high heat. Cook, stirring, until the cinnamon unfurls, 1 to 2 minutes.

4. Add the minced onion mixture and 1 teaspoon salt and cook, stirring, until the onion browns around the edges, 10 to 15 minutes. 5. Remove and discard the cinnamon and stir in the remaining 1/4 teaspoon turmeric and 1/4 teaspoon cayenne. Add the tomatoes and tomato paste and cook, stirring, 5 minutes. Transfer to a food processor or blender and puree until

smooth; set aside.

6. Heat the remaining 1 tablespoon oil in the same pan over medium-high heat. Add the chicken and cook, stirring, 2 minutes.

7. Add the yogurt, 1 tablespoon at a time and stirring well after each addition. Cook, stirring, 2 minutes to evaporate some of the moisture.

7. Add the pureed tomato mixture and bring to a boil. Stir in the water. Return to a boil, then reduce the heat and simmer, partially covered, until the chicken is cooked through, about 30 minutes. Stir and scrape the bottom of the pan every 5 to 8 minutes to keep the sauce from sticking. Then uncover and cook 5 more minutes to reduce and thicken the sauce. Stir in the cilantro and lemon juice. Taste for salt and serve hot.

Lamb Curry with Coriander, Garam Masala and Coconut

Serves 4

This is a variation on the preceding recipe. It's made exactly the same way but uses a spice paste with curry leaves and coconut in place of the spice powder in the original recipe. Potatoes or another vegetable can be added to this recipe as well.

SPICE PASTE

- 12 black peppercorns
- 8 green cardamom pods
- 5 whole cloves
- 16 fresh or 24 frozen curry leaves
- 2 whole, dried red chilies
- 1 bay leaf
- 1/4 cup unsweetened, shredded coconut, or 1/4 cup ground blanched almonds

2 pounds well trimmed, boneless leg of lamb, cut into 1- to 1 1/2-inch pieces

- 3 tablespoons canola oil
- 3 medium red onions
- 1 teaspoon salt, or to taste
- 4 garlic cloves
- 2 inches fresh ginger, peeled and

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cut into large chunks

2 teaspoons ground coriander

1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper, or to taste

1/2 cup plain yogurt, whisked until smooth

3 cups water

1/2 teaspoon garam masala

1/4 cup heavy cream (optional)

1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro

1. For the spice paste, combine all of the ingredients in a spice grinder and grind to a paste, using a little water if you need to. Set aside. Chop one of the onions and cut the remaining two into large chunks. 2. Heat the oil in a large, heavy bottomed casserole over medium-high heat. Add the chopped onion and



the salt and cook, stirring often, until the onion just begins to brown, about 10 minutes.

3. Meanwhile, combine the onion chunks, the garlic and ginger in a food processor and process to a paste; set aside.

4. When the onion has browned, add the spice paste and the lamb. Cook, stirring often, until the lamb begins to brown, 6 to 7 minutes. (If the lamb doesn't brown, turn up the heat.). Add the pureed onion mixture and cook, stirring, until the mixture is dry and the oil begins to separate, about 10 more minutes.

6. Add the coriander and cayenne and cook, stirring, 2 more minutes.

7. Add the yogurt a tablespoon at a time, and stirring well after each addition. Then cook, stirring often, until the mixture is dry again and

the meat is beginning to stick to the bottom of the pan, about 5 minutes.

8. Add the water and garam masala, stir well, and simmer, covered, until the lamb is tender, 35 to 40 more minutes.

9. Just before serving, add the cream, if using, and bring almost to a simmer. Taste for salt. Sprinkle with cilantro and serve hot.

Mangalore Fried Shrimp

Serves 4

This dish is from the southern Indian coastal state of Karnataka where seafood is an important part of the diet. The shrimp has extraordinary flavor. I sometimes vary the recipe by adding 1 1/2 tablespoons unsweetened, shredded coconut along with the mustard seeds, or 2 to 6 chopped, small fresh green chilies with the scallions. Serve with Green Chutney or lemon wedges, Lemon Rice and a raita.

1 pound medium shrimp, peeled and deveined

1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper

1/4 teaspoon turmeric

1/4 teaspoon ground mustard

2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice

4 teaspoons canola oil

1/2 teaspoon black mustard seeds

6 fresh or 10 frozen curry leaves, torn into pieces

3 tablespoons finely chopped scallion

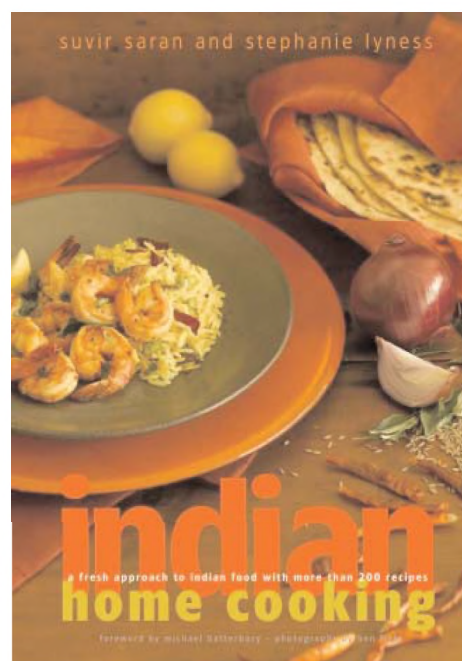
Salt, to taste

1. Rinse the shrimp and pat them dry on paper towels. Put them in a bowl and sprinkle with the cayenne, turmeric, ground mustard and lemon juice. Stir gently to coat the shrimp evenly with the spices. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes.

2. When the shrimp have marinated, combine the oil, mustard seeds and curry leaves in a large wok, frying pan or kadai over medium-high heat. Cook, stirring, until the mustard seeds crackle and the curry leaves brown around the edges, 1 to 2 minutes.

3. Add the shrimp and cook, stirring, 30 seconds, stirring often.

4. Add the scallion and cook, stirring, until the shrimp turn pink all over, about 1 minute. Sprinkle



with salt and serve hot.

Aunty Susan's Orange Flan

Serves 6-8

I got the original version of this recipe from my neighbor in Delhi, whom we called Susan Aunty. (In India, all neighbors are addressed as uncles or aunts; Susan Aunty is a Christian from Kerala in southern India, and so she has a Christian name.) I've embellished her recipe with orange blossom water and cream cheese. I cook the caramel until it's quite dark – the slight bitterness of a darker caramel contrasts nicely with the sweet custard.

1 14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk

1 1/2 cups half and half

4 large eggs

8 ounces cream cheese

2 tablespoons orange marmalade

1/4 cup orange liqueur

1 teaspoon orange blossom water, optional

1 cup sugar

1/4 cup water

Grated zest of 2 oranges

1 inch cinnamon stick

1. Preheat the oven to 350F and remove all but the bottom oven rack. Line an 8- by 8- inch or larger baking dish with a doubled kitchen towel.

2. Combine the sweetened condensed milk, half and half, eggs, cream cheese, marmalade, orange liqueur and orange flower water in the blender and blend until smooth. Set aside.

3. Combine the sugar, water, orange zest and cinnamon in a medium heavy-bottomed

saucepan. Bring to a simmer and remove from the heat. Stir until the sugar is dissolved and the syrup is clear. Then return to the heat and boil, swirling the pan every now and then, until syrup caramelizes to a deep brown color, 4 to 5 more minutes. Immediately pour the caramel into a 2 1/2-quart metal charlotte mold and tip the mold to coat it with the caramel. Let the mold cool a few minutes and then pour the custard mixture into it.

4. Put the mold in the baking dish and then put the dish into the preheated oven. Use a measuring cup to add hot tap water to almost fill the baking dish. Bake until the custard is just set but still jiggles when shaken, and a skewer stuck in about 1 inch from the edge comes out clean, about 1 hour 25 minutes. Carefully lift the charlotte mold out of the pan. Turn off the oven and let the water in the baking dish cool a little before moving it. Refrigerate the flan to chill completely.

5. To serve, set the charlotte mold over medium heat until the bottom gets hot, about 1 minute. (This is



to melt the caramel so that the flan will unmold.) Run a knife around the edge to loosen the flan. Overturn a serving plate on top of the mold and then turn the mold upside down on top of the plate. Remove the mold. Cut the flan into wedges and serve.

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Joel 2:17 Let the priests, who minister to the Lord, Weep between the porch and the altar; ... Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?' "

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Compiled by Andre' Scott

Black History 'Left Behind' in Educational Initiative

WASHINGTON- One-hundred and forty-one years since the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery, Black history scholars and education experts say elementary and high school students across America have few or no textbooks that fully incorporate Black history.

"Clearly there's not enough being done on a curriculum to incorporate African-American topics into the day to day learning of students in schools," says Daryl Scott, chairman of the Department of History at Howard University and vice president of the Association for the Study of African-American History (ASALH) at Howard. "But, when we look out and say African-American students are not getting enough Black history, we could also say African-American students are not getting enough history of any sort."

Scott says the "No Child Left Behind" Act, the centerpiece of Bush's education initiatives, in fact, leaves history behind.

"No Child Left Behind," signed into law by President Bush on Jan. 8, 2002, calls for "strong standards in each

state for what every child should know and learn in reading and math in grades 3-8," a White House citation describes. "Schools will be held accountable for improving performance of all student groups, so every school will be performing at proficient levels within 12 years."

Scott says the act could have a detrimental effect on the emphasis of history in America's schools.

"The only history that many kids are going to get - White or Black - is coming out of their community. And so, this is the larger problem," Scott says.

"I'm more concerned about history in general being restored to the classroom...I'm as concerned about that as I am about the Black History component.

It's a larger problem because ultimately, you're not going to understand African-American history if you do not understand American History just like we also say you can't understand American history if you're not understanding African-American history."

This is the reason that the ASALH has started a special project with Holt, Rinehart and Winston—a leading publisher of textbooks and educational materials for grades six through 12.

ASALH Executive Director Sylvia Cyrus-

Albritton says the organization is working with Holt to develop a textbook that places Black history into the appropriate context with American history. She says she is not certain that the book would be a first per se, but it is necessary.

"Particularly in these days of 'No Child Left Behind' and the lack of focus on the humanities in general, there's a real struggle in standards to cover all the things that are required. And African-American history does not always get the attention and the amount of content that's really required to provide the information that we think would be helpful to students," says Cyrus-Albritton.

Meanwhile, the Black History Month edition of the "Black History Bulletin" first published in 1937 as the Negro History Bulletin by Black History Week founder Carter G. Wilson - outlines a curriculum for middle and high school students titled "Freedom's Song 100 Years of African-American Struggle and Triumph," from 1900 to 2000.

Standards of education are vastly diverse from state to state; therefore, it has not been determined whether any particular text book has fit the bill for the inclusion of Black history, says George Jackson Sr., a spokesman for the

American Federation of Teachers, which represents 1.3 million pre-school through 12th-grade teachers and personnel in largely Black cities, such as New York, Atlanta, Chicago, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Baltimore.

However, he pointed out that the AFT has issued two resolutions to demonstrate its concern, one in 1968 to push for teachers trained in the instruction of Black history, and the second in 2000, to push for curricula that include diversity of race and gender and to encourage teachers to be inclusive in their content and event observations. Jackson says the AFT is about to launch a study on standardized tests that focus solely on math and reading.

"Is it taking away from instruction in other subject areas? Is it deemphasizing civics, social studies or geography or history or sciences and other classes like music and art? Are they suffering?" he said.

Africans have been a documented part of American history since 1619, when a Dutch ship brought about 20 Africans to Jamestown, Va., who were sold to Whites, beginning the slave trade. Hence, thousands of Africans were forced to live and work under inhumane conditions for the next 246 years before the ratification of the 13th Amendment, Dec. 1,

1865, at the close of the Civil War.

Freedom for the slaves brought continued hardships and racial degradation that included another 100 years of Jim Crow segregation, lynching and a civil rights movement fraught with government-instigated violence.

The omission of or inaccurate portrayal of Black history or American history in textbooks or instruction can be traced to America's shame, says Diane Batts Morrow, associate professor of history and African-American studies at the University of Georgia.

"American society has not come to grips with its racist past and is therefore fairly concerned about, 'Oh we don't want to shock these children with this,'" says Morrow.

Whatever the excuse, she says; omissions are detrimental for the sociological development of all races.

"Some of the problems that we have in the American society grow from the fact that we have ignored or denied the roles that peoples of color have played in our history," Morrow says.

Seeing how Whites have oppressed Africans and murdered and took the land of Native Americans can give White students a false sense of superiority, she

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says.

"The White privileged group assumes this is their natural right," she says. "Indeed, White Supremacy was the ruling principal in this country for a couple of centuries. And when you assume that if you're White, you have certain privileges and everyone of color is inferior, that of course is a skewed perspective and it doesn't allow you to treat people with respect based on their individual personalities or to understand why there's not yet a level playing field."

For African-American students, not being taught inclusive history can compound low self-esteem, says Morrow.

"One of the issues is that they don't know that in spite of slavery and in spite of discrimination, Black people have achieved and have accomplished quite a bit and that should be a source of pride, but not if it's avoided or eliminated from your text book," she says. "Teaching it brings an understanding of history and teaches people not to ignore what has happened in the past and its affect on modern-day society."

Upon founding Black History week in 1926, Woodson expressed hope that America will someday not have to commemorate Black History separately from

American history.

That day is not here yet, says Morrow. Without Black history in the classroom, she concludes, "It's a very skewed and imbalanced view."

New Book: It Takes a Village to Raise a Young Person

WASHINGTON— Year after year, decade after decade, Black organizations and leaders have written about, talked about, preached about, held forums, campaigns, conferences and conventions about the state of Black America – particularly Black youth - and how to make progress.

Yet, according to a new book, "Crisis in the Village: Restoring Hope in African-American Communities," the state of Black youth remains as follows:

- Every five seconds during the school day, a Black public school student is suspended.
- Every 46 seconds during the school day, a Black high school student drops out.
- Every minute, a Black child is arrested and a Black baby is born to an unmarried mother.
- Every three minutes, a Black child is born into poverty.
- Every hour a Black baby dies.
- Every five hours, a Black child or youth is a homicide victim.

• Every day a Black youth under 25 dies from HIV infection, and

• Every day a Black youth under 20 commits suicide.

The author, Robert M. Franklin, resolves in the book, "In view of our diagnosis of what ails the village, the question now is what will we do?"

A distinguished professor of social ethics at Emory University, Franklin outlines a strategy that includes enlisting specific Black institutions as catalysts, presenting a framework for accountability and appealing for broad public and philanthropic support.

But, in an interview with the NNPA News Service, he and other supporters of the book's plan, concede that the cycles of the past proves that it will take much more work than talk in order to make major strides for Black progress.

"It is an interesting pattern in American protestant religious life that we have these cycles of revival and renewal that then sort of settle down and there's need for a call for back to revival," Franklin says after a discussion of the book at the National Press Club in Washington. "In some ways I've seen these efforts for village renewal assuming much the same sort of patterns.

We hear the alarms -

the Million Man March, the National Urban League, the Gary, Indiana political conventions – people hear the alarms, they hit the snooze buttons and they rest awhile and then they return."

Franklin says "Crisis in the Village", is a book that he hopes will at least begin galvanizing people from the grassroots up instead of waiting on Black leaders to motivate them.

"I don't expect a rapid response on this," he says. "I expect it to germinate, to grow and mature. If young people take it up, I believe it will have legs for the future, and public school teachers and community agents and barbers and beauticians. Those are the leaders that I think will give the substance, so I'm really in for the grassroots."

The "village" in the book is used to describe Black community institutions, such as churches, educational institutions, businesses and social and civil rights organizations on which African-Americans have traditionally depended for progress.

It is through the growth and involvement of these same institutions that African-Americans will excel, says Hugh Price, former president and chief executive officer of the National Urban League, who also spoke at the

forum. But, the challenge will be to excite Blacks around social issues rather than symbolism.

"Anger galvanized us around the confederate flag flying in the South, but development issues do not galvanize us," says Price. "We will not march on behalf of development for our children, but we will march to bring the Confederate flag down off of a capitol building."

Price says that in his former "State of Black America" speeches, "the story was repeated over and over again about those aspects of the Black community that needed attention."

Since stepping down from the Urban League in 2003, Price says he has observed that African-Americans must also find common issues with Blacks from other nations for strength and unity.

"The village, make no mistake about it, has dispersed geographically, and has dispersed economically, spiritually. There is no unifying purpose; there is no unifying bogymen. There's no sense that we're all in the same boat," Price says.

"There's been a dilution of color solidarity in the African-American community. With the advent of immigration, people are coming from

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various parts of the Diaspora, people with different backgrounds and experiences, Building solidarity as a country now is a challenge," Price says.

That unity must not only be between nationalities, but between neighborhood organizations, says Cheryl Sanders, senior pastor of the Third Street Church of God in Washington, D.C. and author of "Ministry at the Margins: The Prophetic Mission of Women, Youth & the Poor.

"We have decided to reinvent ourselves in order to be a vibrant part of the community," that is being revitalized, Sanders told the Press Club audience. "That means to connect with already organized community groups connect with elected officials and groups that are doing some of the same things that you're trying to do in terms of connecting with kids and connecting with other churches in the community. You find common ground and that ground is that we want this neighborhood to be the best neighborhood that it can be."

Sometimes that means organizations must bond together to resist moving out of inner city neighborhoods as many Whites and middle class Blacks did in the 1970s and 80s, decreasing tax bases and leaving cities

to suffer, she says.

"We have decided in our church that no matter what pressure we're under – and we have been under specific pressure - to give it up, to move," Sanders says. "And we have decided that if this is one of the hot properties, then maybe we'd better stick around and experience what's making it hot. So, we have decided that we are not going to leave."

Jim Wallis, author of "God's Politics: Why the Right Gets it Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It," agreed with Sanders, saying people on opposite sides of the political spectrum must also find common ground in order to push Black progress.

Quoting Franklin's book, Wallis calls this "a grand alliance" of progressives and liberals and conservatives who would bring a strategic investment to issues such as health care, childcare, affordable housing, and fair tax policies.

"That kind of grand alliance will help break up this logjam of just blaming each other for poverty. We have to stop blaming each other for problems and ask what the solutions are," says Wallis.

Jawanza Kunjufu, author of the 1986 book, "Countering the Conspiracy to Destroy Black Boys", who has also read Franklin's book, says in an NNPA

interview that he agrees that Black progress is less about outside influences and ultimately about what grassroots Blacks will do among themselves.

As one example, "The million dollar question is what can Black people do to increase the amount of dollars they spend with Black businesses," Kunjufu says.

"If the quote-unquote – Black middle class no longer lives in the Black community, then they shop in the suburbs," says Kunjufu. "So, that's the dilemma, that if you live in a country that's capitalistic and patriarchal – and we do – then how are we going to increase this percentage of African-American men who stay with their children and their families if, one, they are miss-educated by their school systems and secondly, there are no economic options available for them. So, unfortunately...all the conferences in the world and all the books and forums in the world are not going to change this unless African-Americans decide that we are going to spend 10 percent of our incomes or greater with each other. And so far, we have not made that decision."

But, child-advocate Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund, said in an inter-

view that she has high hopes for the "village" concept expressed in Franklin's book. She agrees with him that progress will be slow, but there will be progress nevertheless.

"You go out and you plant the seeds and you water them and you fertilize them and you till the soil and a lot of things are sprouting up. There are a lot of things that are really now beginning to happen," she says. "It will not be one shot. It will be hard work. There's a lot of hope out there, but there's a huge amount that needs to be done," Edelman says.

"Basically, the Black community has got to focus."

Oscar-Winning Dreamgirl' in Love with her Roots

CHICAGO-I love it! I love it!" That is the excited response of Chicago's latest sweetheart Jennifer Hudson when hearing that many have nicknamed her J-Hud.

Although a little tired last week from rehearsals and pre-recording work for Sunday's Academy Awards ceremony - Hudson won the coveted Oscar for best supporting actress - the "Dreamgirls" star said

she wanted to spend some time with her hometown African-American daily newspaper.

"There's not much time for 'Jennifer time' right now, but normally when I try to find time for what I call my inner-peace, I draw," Hudson said. "But I haven't had time for that, so I just still away with my iPod and listen to my music. And it normally happens during the time that I'm in a car leaving to go to another event, or on the airplane. Other than that, I am working all day."

Hudson said her mood dictates whether she listens to nothing but gospel or goes into some eclectic soul and other music styles.

She knows she has a great gift that she credits as coming "from God."

Many may be surprised that after Hudson wasn't a finalist on the fourth season of "American Idol," the 26-year-old wasn't offered a recording contract, management team or career support.

"I was on my own," Hudson said. "I had to depend on my talent and God. That's how I got to where I am today. And thank God for 'Dreamgirls' because that helped make me to become what I am."

Playing Effie White in "Dreamgirls," Hudson seems unfazed by her new stardom and exudes humility - even when

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LOCAL CHURCHES

Ambassadors of Christ

700 S. Madison St.

Sunday School • 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning • 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening • 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study • 6:00 p.m.
Prayer • Tuesday & Thursday
9:00 a.m.

Church: 288-7214 • Home: 289-3663



Pastor John Slaughter

Antioch Baptist Church

1700 E. Butler

Sunday School • 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 10:40
a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study • 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer • 11:00 a.m. &
6:00 p.m.

Church: 288-4992 • Home: 289-8572



Pastor Eddie Long

Berea Apostolic Church

1615 E. Williard

Sunday School • 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 11:30
a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study • 6:30 p.m.

Phone: 289-3418



Pastor Renize Abram

Bethel AME Church

1020 E. Jackson

Sunday School • 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship • 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study • 11:00 a.m.
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Church: 288-5473



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11:00 a.m.

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HOME (765) 289-9355

Calvary Baptist Church

1117 E. Jackson

Sunday School • 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 10:45
a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study • 11:30 a.m.
& 6:00 p.m.

Phone: 288-7511



Pastor J.E. Moorehead

Cathedral of Praise Church

2505 N. Walnut
Muncie, IN 47302
(765) 287-9789

Sun. Morning Prayer: 10:00 am
Sun. Morning Worship: 11:00am
Every 1st Sun. Dinner served after service
Every 1st Sun. Evening Service: 5:00pm
Tues. Bible Study 12:00pm and 6:00pm

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Pastor Adrian Leavell

Christ Temple Church

654 N. Jefferson

Sunday School • 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 11:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study • 7:00 p.m.
Friday 7:00 p.m.

Fax: 284-4041
Phone: 284-1783
christtemplumuncie.org



Pastor S. Michael Millben

Church of The Living God

1120 E. Washington St.

Sunday Morning Worship • 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer • 6:00 p.m.
Bible Study • 7:00 p.m.

“The Church with a total worship
experience”

Phone: 286-4322



Pastor Kevin Woodgett

Deliverance Temple

903 S. Pershing

Sunday Service & Class Free Indeed
11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday Bible Study 11:00 and 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Mens Group 12:00 and 6:00 p.m.
Thursday Rising Above 7:00 p.m.
Friday Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

Phone: 282-7852
288-2671



Bishop H. Royce Mitchell

Faith Center For All Nations

600 S. Blaine St.

Morning Prayer • 8:15 a.m.
Sunday School • 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study • 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Youth Night • 6:00 p.m.

Phone: 282-1915
Fax: 282-0341



Pastor Larry Carther

Greater Grace Church

319 W. Howard

Sunday School • 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 11:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service • 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Class • 7:00 p.m.

Phone: 284-2399



Pastor Kendrick Winburn

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200 E. Ninth Street
Muncie, Indiana 47302
765-288-8598

Services
Sabbath School, 9:30 AM
Sabbath Worship, 11:00 AM

Prayer Meeting
Wednesday, 7:00 PM



Pastor Charles M. Willis II

Prayer House of Deliverance

1805 Wall Ave.

Sunday
Sunday School • 9:30 a.m.
Deliverance Service • 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship • 6:00 p.m.

Thursday
Victory of Praise Service • 6:00 p.m.

Church: 288-8990



Pastor John L. Smith

House of Prayer for All People

2725 S. Hackley St.

Sunday Morning Worship • 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study • 11:00 a.m.

Church: 287-9883
Home: 284-9687



Pastor Edith Hutchinson

Kirby Avenue Church of God

701 Kirby Ave.

Sunday School • 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 10:45
a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study • 7:00 p.m.

Phone: 284-8676



Pastor Thomas Stanton

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LOCAL CHURCHES

Greater Mt. Calvary Church of God in Christ

1524 E. Butler

Sunday School • 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 11:00 a.m.
Y.P.W.W. • 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday Prayer & Bible Band • 6:00 p.m.
Friday Night Pastorial Teaching 6:00 p.m.

Phone: 289-6262



Pastor Charles Coatie

New Liberty Baptist

1615 N. Elgin

Sunday School • 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study • 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Church: 284-8231 • Home: 642-4012



Pastor L.D. Clay, Jr.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church

820 S. Penn St.

Sunday School • 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study • 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer • 12 Noon & 6:00 p.m.

Phone: 284-0138



Pastor Aston R. Chambers

New Hope Baptist

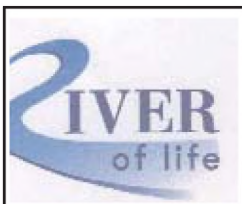
524 E. Willard

Sunday School • 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study • 5:30 p.m.
Womens Ministry 5:30 p.m.
Youth Church 5:30
Single Ministry 6:30 p.m.

Phone: 288-7023 or 284-4459



Pastor W.C. Edwards



Pastor John Martin

River of Life

5350 W. Bethel
765 - 287 - 1200

Services

Sunday Worship • 10:00a.m.
Sunday Evening • 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday Service • 7:00p.m.

“Where the river flows everything shall live.” Ezek. 47:9 (NIV)

Morning Star Ministry

2000 S. Hoyt

287 - 0021
289 - 5436

Services

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study, 7 p.m.
Friday Worship, 7 p.m.



*Pastors Gladys M. Maina
Simon Maina Mungai*

Paramount Community

1405 E. Willard

Sunday School • 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 11:45 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 12:00 a.m.
WXFN 1340 am Broadcast • 9:30 a.m.

Phone: 284-1722

284-7169



Pastor Leroy Thomas

Destiny Christian Center International

3540 N. Broadway
Muncie, Indiana 47304

765-288-8459

Services

Sunday Worship, 11:30 AM
Thursday Prayer, 6:45 PM
Thursday Bible Study, 7:00 PM



Pastor Keith O'Neal

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1501 E. Highland Ave.

Sunday School • 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 11:00 a.m.
Bible Study & Prayer Meeting
Wednesday Bible Study • 12:00 Noon
Wednesday Evening Study • 7:00 p.m.

Phone: 284-6890



Pastor Dorothea Norwood

Shiloh Church of God in Christ

820 N. Blaine

Sunday School • 10:15 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 12:00 Noon
Evening Y.P.W.W. • 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday Bible Study • 7:00 p.m.
Friday Worship • 7:00 p.m.

Phone: 282-1869



Pastor Buddy Kirtz

Spiritual Baptist

1201 E. Jackson

Sunday School • 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study • 7:00 p.m.

Phone: 282-1034



Pastor Mack Moses

Terrestrial Temple Church of God in Christ

2112 N. Turner

Sunday School • 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study • 6:00 p.m.
Thursday Worship • 7:00 p.m.

Phone: 288-8181



Pastor James Lawson

Trinity United Methodist Church

1210 S. Hackley St.

Sunday School • 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 11:00 a.m.

Phone: 284-4515



Pastor James M. Nave

REPAIRING THE BREACH INC.

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Muncie, IN 47304

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289-3921



Pastor Kevin Ivy Sr.

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1205 E. Willard

Sunday School • 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study • 7:00 p.m. & Thursday 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday - Friday Prayer • 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Phone: 286-3031



Pastor Wade Sloss

Union Chapel Ministries

4622 N. Broadway
Saturday Services

Evening Worship • 5:30 p.m.
JC Junction Children's Church 5:30 p.m.
Commonway Worship 7:00 p.m. (180 Bldg.)

Sunday Services

Sunday School • 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Services • 9:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
180 Youth Event • Sunday 6:00 p.m.

Phone: 288-8383 Office / 213-3977 180 Office



Pastor Gregg Parris

Union Missionary Baptist Church

1103 N. Macedonia St.
Sunday School • 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship • 7:00 a.m./10:00 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study & Prayer • 10:0 a.m./6:00 p.m.
Wed. Children's Bible Study • 6:00 p.m. (annex)
Children's Church (1st Sun. 9-13; 3rd Sun. 3-8)
Phone: 284-7274

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Sunday Prayer • 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 10:30 a.m.
The Zone (Youth Service) 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer • 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Service • 7:00 p.m.

Phone: 284-6269



Pastor Bryant R. Crumes

LOCAL CHURCHES

Holy Ghost Temple Church of God in Christ

1518 E. 17th St.

Sunday School • 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study • 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer • 6:00 p.m.
Friday Worship • 7:30 p.m.

Phone: 282-9158



Pastor Jerry D. Bumpus

The Spiritual Israel Church And It's Army

915 E. Memorial Dr.
Muncie, IN

Sunday School • 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study • 7:00 p.m.

Church: 288-3264

Home: 260-745-5353

Ex. 4:22 Israel is my son even my first born



Rev. JR Carswell

Fig Tree Ministries

219 W. Main
Muncie, IN

Sunday Morning Worship • 10:00 a.m.
Monday • 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer • 7:00 p.m.

Phone: 281-1636

Home: 759-7872

pastor kaymorehouse@hotmail



Pastor Kay Morehouse

The New Testament Christian Ministries

6207 W. Taylor Rd. at Hoffer

Sunday Bible Study • 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study • 7:00 p.m.

"Ambassadors for Christ Radio Broadcast 1340
AM ESPN Every Sunday at 10:00 a.m..

Phone: 282-7666
ntcm1@netzero.com



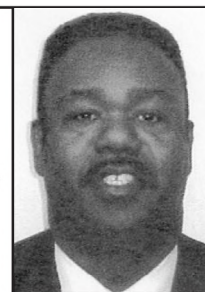
Overseer Ardelia Johnson

My Father's House Apostlic Church

1208 E. Centennial Ave.

Sunday School • 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Service • 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday Prayer • 7:00 p.m.
Thursday Bible Study • 7:00 p.m.

Phone: 287-9221 • Home: 282-3224



Pastor Michael W. Boyd

Power of Pure Unity and Reconciliation

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Veil

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Sunday 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.
Phone: 214-1065



*Pastor's Joseph and
Tiffany Donald*

New Kingdom Builders

2120 E. 26th Street

Sunday School • 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study • 6:30 p.m.
Friday Praise and Worship • 6:30 p.m.

Phone: 286-4168
Home: 288-5205



Pastor Iry Hogan

Unitarian Universalist Church

4800 W. Bradford Dr. (off Morrison Rd.)

Sunday Services • 10:45 a.m.
Adult discussion • 9:30
Monthly Sunday young adult lunches

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Look us up at <http://uuchurch.uwctl.org/>

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NEWS BRIEFS

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meeting fans.

"It's funny, I was just in Target the other day - my boyfriend and I - and this guy comes up to me and says, 'Hey, you look like that girl, um, that girl who won,'" Hudson said with a chuckle. "I was like, 'wow! What did she win?'"

"I get that a lot, and at times I get people who know exactly who I am. I don't mind it at all, unless I am by myself, which is very rare now. You know, I love people and I don't mind talking and taking pictures and stuff. It is okay."

What has kept Hudson grounded is her family and the city of Chicago.

"Chicago is my reality," Hudson said. "That's why I love to come home when I can, to have that balance of like Hollywood and Chicago. It's just real to me."

So Hudson's mantra is that you can always come back home to find solace when life's pace gets too hectic, but she also wants young aspiring singers and actors in the city to know that sometimes you may need to stretch your wings elsewhere to see how high you can fly.

"I say in trying to make it, in going through that journey to get to that place where you are established and successful, it is probably best to leave," Hudson said. "Because there are just

other places that you need to go to and explore and just try to get yourself known, like a L.A., Atlanta or New York. Just anywhere really. Just get out.

"Chicago is a good place to live, but the heart of the industry is actually in L.A., Atlanta and New York. But once you make it, hey, of course you can come back home because I still live in Chicago. At least I try to."

After the Oscars, Hudson plans to take a couple of weeks off, and then start recording her new album.

There is the possibility of another movie on the horizon, but for Hudson it's not about the fame fortune or glamour, she said.

"I just want to be able to come back to my city and help my family and give back to the Black community in any way possible. With blessings, it's about giving back."

Lack of Insurance Leaves Kids Vulnerable

WASHINGTON— Shon, who asked that only her nickname be used to protect the identity of her two children, is in pain.

"I'm sitting here now in my living room and my face is swollen. I don't know if I have an abscessed tooth or what's going on, but it hurts and it's swollen

and guess what? I don't have any insurance. I can't go to the doctor. If I go to the doctor, guess what I'll be doing? Stacking' on bills, stacking' on bills, stacking' on bills."

A full-time student studying health care administration in Jackson, Miss., Shon says she would be adding her own medical bills to that of her 2- and 16-year-olds' for whom she has applied four times for Medicaid over the past 22 months, but for various reasons - including administrative snafus - have been unsuccessful at receiving aid.

The 32-year-old mother, whose teenage daughter has suffered a broken leg from an accident at school, skin problems and unexplained baldness in one spot on her head, has been receiving guidance from the Children's Defense Fund in Jackson after accumulating more than \$10,000 in medical bills. Shon says her teen also needs new glasses, but can't afford them and hasn't seen a dentist in 10 years.

CDF reports that Shon is the mother of only two of the 9 million children who are uninsured in the U. S. Also, they are among 13 million American children living in poverty. More than 28,000 others per year die before their first birthdays.

Yet, according to the Children Defense Fund Action Council, 245 of the 435-member U. S. House of Representatives and 51 of the 100-member Senate voted for less than half of the top 10 bills that could have improved the lives of the nation's children last year. That includes 30 lawmakers who voted for none of the bills.

"The Children's Defense Fund is very concerned that elected officials aren't taking children seriously because children can't vote," says Nayyera Haq, a spokeswoman for the CDF. "We need to have leaders in Congress who are willing to make a real commitment to putting our children first."

The 10 bills that the CDFAC used to score the lawmakers included increasing funding to education and health care, helping low-income families to afford heating costs, increasing minimum wages, and increasing funding to Head Start, largely went unheeded in the 109th Congress.

"Last year, Congress failed to make any significant progress in the lives of America's children," CDF President Marian Wright Edelman said in a statement. "Children are our nation's most cost-effective investment, yet the 109th Congress contin-

ued to cut funding for vital programs and failed to make crucial child investments while lavishing tax cuts on the wealthiest Americans. This new Congress has a real opportunity to make our children a priority and to genuinely improve the lives of millions of America's children."

Evidence is clear that the CDF concerns may fair better in the 110th Congress. Though the CDFAC Scorecard is non-partisan, an NNPA survey of the scores shows that in the 109th, dominated by Republicans, all 30 lawmakers who voted 0 percent on the 10 bills favored by the CDFAC were Republicans. Of the 124 who voted 100 percent with the CDFAC, all were Democrats, except one Republican and two Independents. They were Republican Sen. Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island and Independent Reps. Bernie Sanders and James Jeffords of Vermont.

Other elements of the 2006 CDFAC Congressional Scorecard:

- Twenty-six Senators and 98 Members of Congress scored 100 percent.
- Twenty-three Senators and 7 Members of Congress scored 0 percent.

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NEWS BRIEFS

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- North Dakota and Vermont's Congressional delegations were rated the best advocates for children, both with 100 percent.

- New Hampshire (15 percent) Alaska (13 percent) and Wyoming (7 percent) were rated the three worst delegations for children.

- Scores of current Senate leaders were: Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), 100 percent; Majority Whip Richard Durbin (D-Ill.), 100 percent; Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), 0

percent; and Senate Minority Whip Trent Lott (R-Miss.), 10 percent.

- Scores of current House leaders were: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), 100 percent; Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.), 100 percent; Majority Whip, James E. Clyburn (D-S.C.), 100 percent; Minority Leader John Boehner (R-Ohio), 20 percent; and Minority Whip Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), 20 percent.

- Of the 37 Congressional Black Caucus members who were scored, all received between 90 percent and

100 percent; except six.

They were Reps. William Lacy Clay (Mo.), John Conyers Jr. (Mich.), Maxine Waters (Calif.), and Albert Russell Wynn (Md.), all of whom received 80 percent. Rep. Donald Payne (N.J.) received 70 percent and the lowest score of CBC members was Rep. William J. Jefferson (La.) with 60 percent. Five current CBC members were not scored because three are freshmen and two do not have vote, D. C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton and Virgin Island Delegate Donna Christian-

Christensen.

Edelman says members of Congress are informed of their score by the CDFAC and told that they will be expected to improve during the 110th Congress.

"This new Congress has the opportunity to give all 9 million uninsured children health coverage in 2007 and lift millions more out of poverty," says Edelman. "How we take care of our children speaks to our values and priorities as a society. Voters should tell Congress we can and must guarantee all children health coverage."

Shon, who is scheduled to graduate in December 2008, says telling them is not nearly enough.

"I think that they need to be in an economic situation equivalent to that of someone like me. Someone needs to make it mandatory that they spend one week in my situation or people who even have it worse than me," she says. "You wouldn't let your kids live like that. Why would you let mine live like that?"

Compiled by Andre' Scott

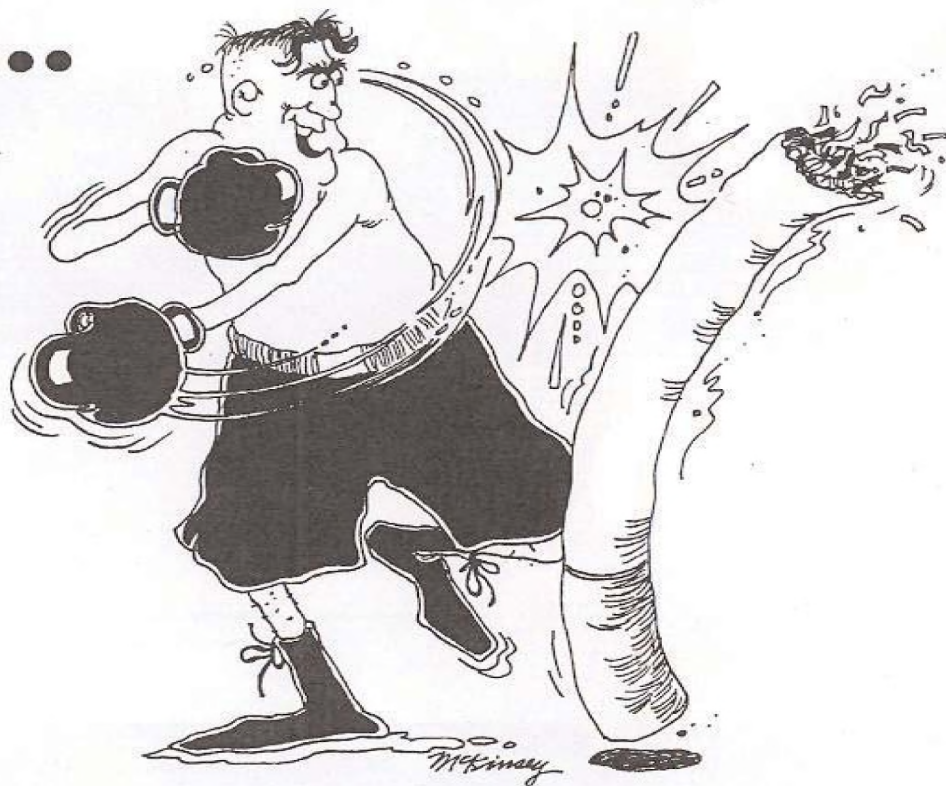
(Dog) Gone... But Not Forgotten!

By McKinsey

In 1899, a cartoonist drew a cartoon predicting that a bridge for trolley traffic would be built from New York to London by the 20th century.

In 1913, a woman made a parachute jump for the first time.

In 1980, Joe Bowen, of Powell County, Kentucky, set a world record by walking 3,008 miles on stilts from his home to Los Angeles.



In 1940, heavyweight boxer Gene Tunney wrote in "Reader's Digest" about three likely results of smoking. He said smokers would "smell so strong and dogs will never bite you," "you will cough in your sleep and so robbers will not try to steal your belongings," and "you will have many diseases...and die young."

HUD releases landmark homeless study

New data show 754,000 homeless persons on any given night

WASHINGTON - For the first time since 1984, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is releasing a report on the scope of homelessness in America. HUD's first-ever Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress concludes that an estimated 754,000 persons are homeless on any given night. HUD's assessment also measures homelessness over time, allowing researchers to expand their body of knowledge beyond the more limited "point-in-time" estimates of the past.

"This first-of-its kind study is a huge leap forward in our understanding of not only how many people are homeless, but also what their needs are," said HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson. "We've got to remember that behind these numbers are people - individuals and families who are struggling to survive. This report is a powerful tool to help all of us at the federal, state and local level design more effective responses to homelessness and better help those who are living in shelters and on our streets."

Since 2001, HUD has awarded more than \$9

billion to support thousands of local housing and service programs throughout the nation and is seeking a record \$1.6 billion through the Department's Continuum of Care grant programs for FY 2008.

Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS)

HUD's assessment is based on two sources of data. The first is a national sample of 80 geographically diverse communities, chosen randomly, that have implemented Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS). This modern data collection method can accurately count how many persons use emergency shelters and transitional housing over time. The HMIS data in this report focus on the number of sheltered homeless persons from February to April 2005. HUD intends to produce more extensive HMIS data in future assessments that will provide a longer-range perspective on homeless trends.

Quantifying homelessness in any fashion is a vexing challenge to researchers both in and out of government.

Previous surveys attempted to produce unduplicated counts of homeless persons by measuring homelessness over very limited periods of time, usually a single night. While HUD continues to collect this point-in-time data for both sheltered and unsheltered persons, new HMIS data collection techniques now allow researchers to study the sheltered homeless population over time.

Based on a geographically representative sampling of 80 communities, HUD found 704,000 persons used emergency shelters or transitional housing between February and April of 2005. The daily average of sheltered homeless persons during this period is 334,744. HUD's three-month sample of HMIS data found the following characteristics of the sheltered homeless population (see page 31 of report):

- Gender - 65 percent of the adult population are men
- Age - The largest segment, 41 percent, are 31-to-50 years old
- Household Type - 66 percent are individuals - 34 percent are persons in families with children

- Race - 59 percent are minority

- Geographic - 75 percent are in central cities - 25 percent are in suburban and rural areas (see page 44)

- Veteran Status - 19 percent of the adult homeless population are veterans

One-night Counts

As HUD continues to encourage local communities to implement HMIS nationwide, the Department also collects local one-night counts of homeless persons, both at the shelter level and on the streets. HUD's analysis of these snapshot counts from more than 3,800 cities and counties found an estimated 754,000 persons were in shelters and on the streets during one night in January 2005. HUD's point-in-time estimate is very similar to an analysis of the same data conducted by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, a nonpartisan advocacy organization and a leading voice on the issue of homelessness.

Local communities conduct these one-night counts on a biannual basis and report their data to HUD with grant applications that seek funding for a wide vari-

ety of homeless housing and service programs. These snapshot counts offer communities a powerful tool to gauge their homeless challenge and to create innovative housing solutions in response.

What's Next?

HUD's report offers a vital starting point for measuring homelessness in the future. The Department and its local partners are collecting more comprehensive data each year. The Department expects HMIS data in particular to be increasingly more comprehensive, covering longer periods of time, and including persons living on the streets. Over time, HUD's annual assessments will also be able to determine trends in homelessness.

Jackson added, "Understanding homelessness is a necessary step to ending it, especially for those persons living with a chronic condition such as mental illness, an addiction, or a physical disability."

Read HUD's Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/ahar.cfm>

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encourages all interested applicants to visit frequently the official Ball State University Website at www.bsu.edu where open positions are listed and described in detail or call the jobline at 285-8565.



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Temporary full-time staff position available immediately through June 30, 2007 with possibility of renewal. Responsibilities: perform office coordination duties and provide logistics support for the Center for Media Design/Digital Exchange; provide coordination and assistance to the Executive Director and administrative staff; assure smooth and efficient operation of the office; provide progress reports to the Executive Director and Assistant Director; assist in the implementation of communication policy. **Minimum qualifications:** eighteen months of education or training beyond high school or equivalent; at least one year of office management, coordination, or related experience. **Preferred qualifications:** associate's degree; over three years of executive office management experience. Starting salary \$28,350 with an excellent benefits package. COVER LETTER, RESUME, PROOF OF EDUCATION (transcripts preferred) and NAMES, ADDRESSES, and TELEPHONE NUMBERS of THREE PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES MUST be received by 5:00 PM, Wednesday, March 7, 2007. Send or bring COMPLETE credential packet to:



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Vasilis Makris, M.D., P.C.

Diseases and Surgery of the Eye
288-1935

3300 W. Purdue Avenue

Dr. Makris Answers Your Questions



Will you please tell me more about eye donation?



Eye donation is a way for individuals to give the precious gift of sight. Corneas from donated eyes can save vision for some people in danger of losing their sight from an injury or disease. Each year, more than 43,000 cornea transplants are made from donor eyes, making this the most frequently performed transplant procedure. In addition, 38,000 donor eyes are used each year for research on eye diseases and conditions that threaten vision. Donor identities are kept confidential, and eye donation does not affect the appearance of the donor. If you are interested in becoming an eye donor, fill out a donor card and indicate your donor status on your driver's license. Also, be sure to tell your family about your wish to be an eye donor.

For information on various eye conditions, as well as information on the latest advancements in surgical techniques, tune in Dr. Makris' weekly television show, "You and Your Eyes", on Muncie Public Access Channel 42, Sundays at 6:00 PM and Wednesdays at 4:00 PM.

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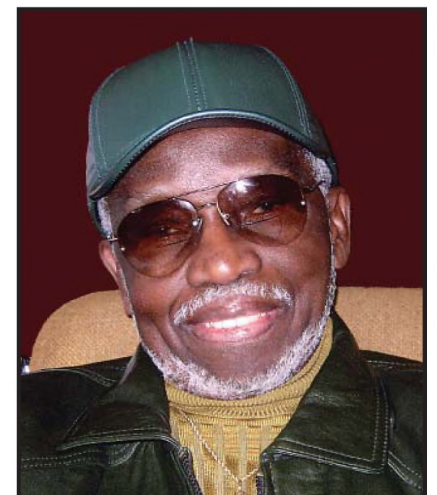
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Frank Scott President



Carol Barnes Vice-President



Odell (Scotty) Scott (CEO)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Monthly Community Meetings

MUNCIE BLACK EXPO; 309 N. High Street	2nd Tuesday, 6:00 P.M.	Demetrius “Dee” Harris, President 282-1997 or 215 - 0160
Muncie Community School Board; Anthony Administration Building	2nd & 4th Tuesday, 630 P.M.	Robert Kellems; 286-0212
Muncie City Council; City Hall Auditorium	1st Monday, 7:30 P.M.	Bill Shroyer; 741-9625
Muncie NAACP; Maring- Hunt Library 205 S. High St.	2nd Thursday, 5:15 P.M.	Dr. Jayne Beilke, President
Muncie Commission On The Social Status of Black Males; Human Rights Office - City Hall	1st Tuesday, 5:00 P.M.	John Young-El; 747-9008
Widow’s Son Lodge #22 Masonic Lodge, 1514 E. Willard Street	2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7:00 P.M.	Eddie J. Chappell, Worshipful Master; 759-5290
Naomi Chapter Number 11 The Order of Eastern Star Masonic Lodge, 1514 E. Willard Street	1st and 3rd Monday, 7:00 P.M.	Joanne McCain Johnson, Worthy Matron; 286-2960
Coalition of 100 Women; Kennedy Branch of Public Library	3rd Saturday, 10:30 A.M.	Linda Branson, President; 282-0492
Millie P. Hoffman Federated Club Lynd House 2410 E. McGalliard	2nd & 4th Wednesday, 3:00 P.M.	Ruth Ann Blair, President; 289-2118
Lucille Lucas Williams Federated Club	2nd Thursday, Rotating Home Meetings	Lula Mann, President; 747-5125
Whitely Neighborhood Council; 1306 N. Broadway	1st Monday, 6:00 P.M.	Yvonne Doyle, President; 282-3471
Unity in DiverCity Gethsemane Church United Methodist Church 1201 W. McGalliard Rd.	3rd Sat. 11:00 a.m.	Dr Pierre Atchade, 289 - 3955
Household of Ruth #4618 Industry Neighborhood Center; 1407 S. Wolfe Street	1st Friday, 4:00 P.M.	Loretta Miller, MNG; 288-6987